Hafa Adai!

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Do you believe the federal government should step in and help resolve the crisis surrounding CUC?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

Thumbs Down

Iran's leader flashes a thumbs-down as President Bush denounces Tehran as a sponsor of global terrorism.

NATION...Page 15

Finland Carnage

A young man walks into a vocational college in Finland and opens fire, killing 10 people before shooting himself in the head.

WORLD...Page 16

Out Aiken

Clay Aiken is finally confirming what many people already knew: He's gay.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 21

Fire hits Caesar Sauna, employee hurt. **PAGE 3**

DOI convenes insular areas health summit. **PAGE 6**

Casino plans, flights, buildup key to Rota's economic future

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
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BUSINESS EDITOR

Drive down the main thoroughfare in Songsong, the most developed village on Rota, and the toll the CNMI's recent economic downturn has taken on the island becomes immediately apparent. Scores of buildings are vacant and falling into disrepair. Many businesses have closed and most of the few that remain open are struggling to survive in a place that is slowly becoming a ghost town.

However, an economic revival could be on the horizon for Rota if new airline services to the island can bring tourists to the island and opportunities on the horizon, like the pending military buildup in Guam and new rules opening the door to

See CASINO on Page 4

Visa waivers may extend beyond 2014

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

The U.S. Department of Defense is anticipating a need to extend the 2014 deadline for Guam's exemption from the national cap on temporary work visas.

Retired Gen. David Bice, executive director for the Joint Guam Program Office, told a U.S. congressional hearing yesterday that the visa waiver provision of the recently signed CNMI immigra-

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> *We are grateful to Congress for this visa waiver provision, but may need to extend the waiver beyond 2014 should program timelines necessitate.*
>
> —Gen. David Bice (ret.), executive director for the Joint Guam Program Office

RICE BEARERS JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Man'amko Advisory Council chair Frank Reyes joins representatives of a group of Korean tour guides who generously donated bags of rice to the Man'amko Center/Office of Aging in Garapan yesterday. ***See story on Page 5.***

Muña: PSS, govt still owe CUC money

By Kristi Eaton
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is stepping up the pressure on the central government and the Public School System to pay the more than $3 million CUC believes is owed it.

Muna

According to CUC's records, the central government owes the utility company $1.6 million in past debts while

See MUÑA on Page 4

Ex-baseball coach gets 8 years for sex abuse

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Superior Court yesterday slapped a former coach of the Little League's baseball team with an eight-year prison sentence for sexually abusing and sexually assaulting two boys.

Associate Judge David A. Wiseman sentenced Ramon Camacho San Nicolas to 20 years in prison, all suspended

See EX-BASEBALL on Page 4

Local

Taotao Tano: Return revoked homestead permits

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

A citizen group has accused the Department of Public Lands of illegally revoking homestead permits in Kagman.

Taotao Tano president Gregorio Cruz Jr. in a letter to the Department of Public Lands, said the agency has "misinterpreted the law" and must return all permits revoked in the past years to the homesteaders.

At the center of Cruz's argument is a 2004 law barring DPL from revoking homestead permits if the homestead lots don't have public water, power, and sewer services available. Cruz pointed to the case of the Kagman homesteads, which have no public sewer network.

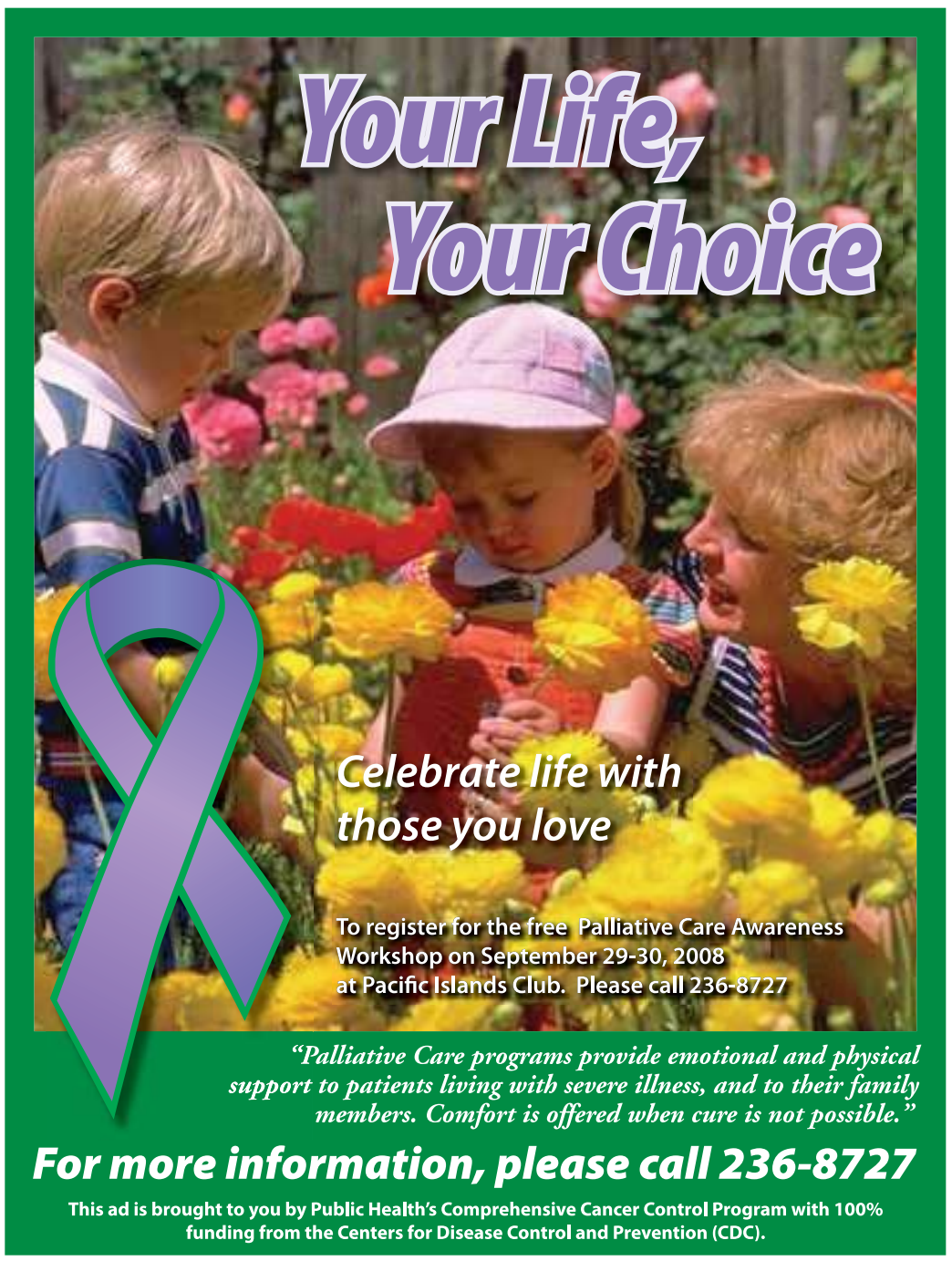
"We urge the Department of Public Lands to refrain further from revoking homesteads that do not have adequate infrastructure such as power, water, and sewer as provided by law and return all those homesteads previously revoked immediately to the original and rightful Northern Marianas descent homesteaders," Cruz said.

But Manuel Rabauliman, director of DPL's Homestead Division, said the agency has to revoke permits to make sure the homestead lots are put to good use, and not left idle.

Under the law, a homestead recipient must build a house and occupy it within two years after the homestead permit is issued. The law also requires the homesteader to continue occupying that house throughout the third year. Homesteaders who meet the requirements receive a compliance certificate and quitclaim deed, and those who fail to comply have their permits revoked.

"If people don't comply, we have to revoke their permits. We can't allow them to hold on to the land. There is a lot of pending applicants," Rabauliman said.

The residential homestead program was created to assist needy residents to purchase homes and lots in order construct safe and decent housing. DPL also administers the agricultural homestead program, which allows eligible applicants a sizable lot for the development and maintenance of farms crops.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Roadkill stinks up local streets

By Stefan Sebastian
stefan_sebastian@saipantribune.com
BUSINESS EDITOR

The corpses of dead dogs and cats rotting on the side of local roadways are an all too familiar sight and smell for Saipan's residents but this week a resident is fuming after he says government officials failed to respond to one that stunk up an intersection in Garapan.

At 9:45am Monday, Carl Brachear called the offices of Saipan Mayor Juan Tudela to report that a very large and very dead dog was lying on the side of Beach Road across the street from a local coffee shop.

Hours later, the corpse was still there, even after a road crew had passed through the area as part of a street clean-up, he said. Brachear came to the *Saipan Tribune* to find out why nobody would dispose of the animal.

"At noon, the dog still hadn't been removed," he said. "By then its body had exploded and the smell was wafting into the coffee shop."

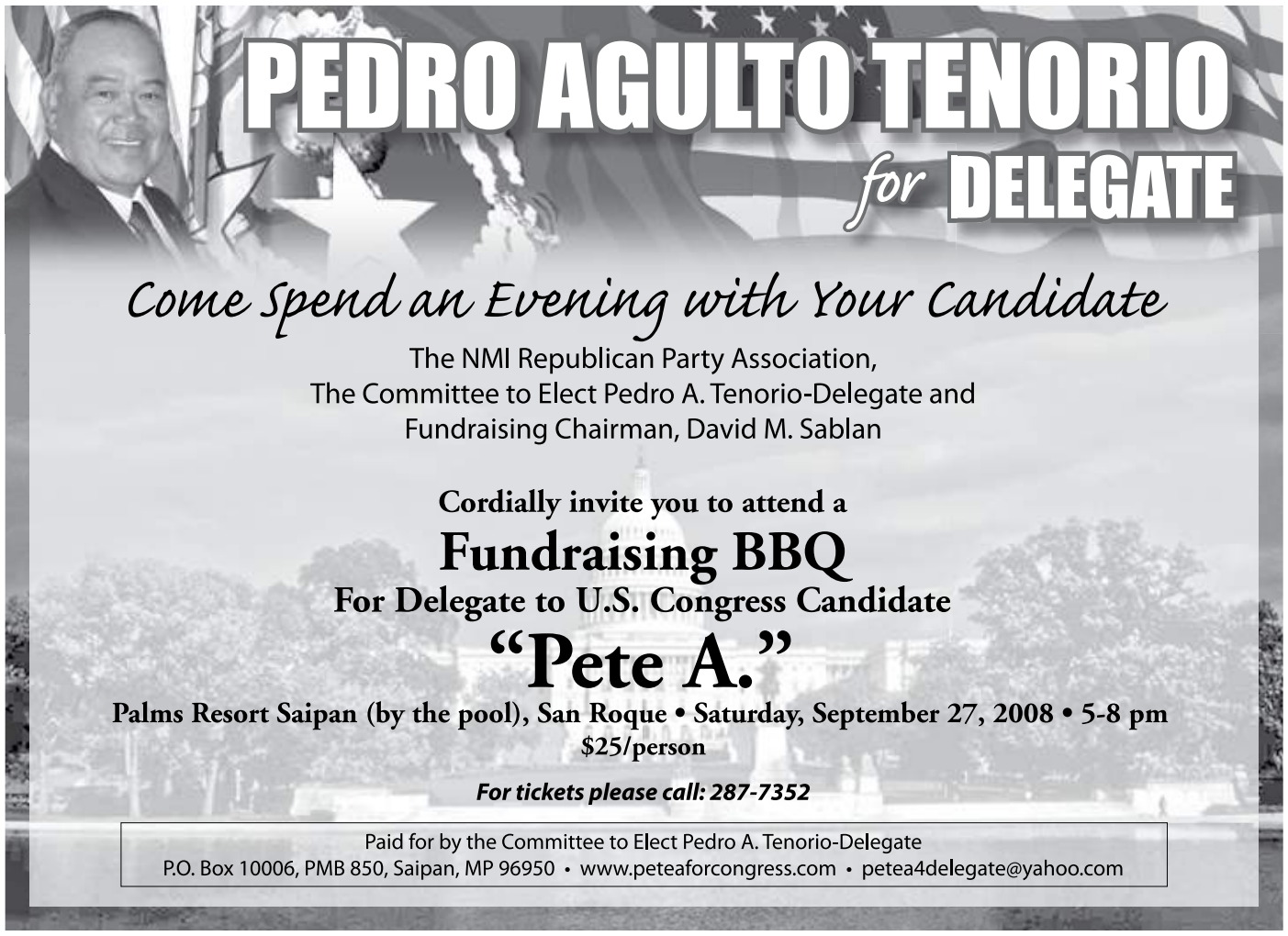
The corpse remained on the street at least until Tuesday night when a *Saipan Tribune* reporter passed through the area and caught a whiff of it.

In an interview, mayor's office spokesman Anthony Benevente said the office's staff have voluntarily cleaned up scores of dead animals from local roadways as a community service, noting the prevalence of roadkill on Saipan's streets. However, cleaning up the problem is the job of the Department of Public Safety, he said, and the mayor's office lacks the resources to dispose of every corpse.

"The mayor's office has just been helping out to deal with these dead animals," he said. "We're not really obliged to do it."

DPS spokeswoman Lei Ogumoro said that to deal with roadkill on Saipan, residents need to contact the department, which will remove it.

"If people see a carcass on the roadway, we would ask that they contact DPS and we will take the necessary action to remove the debris," she said, adding that roadkill is then given to Department of Public Health staff for disposal. "People are probably not reporting it to us. We remove any debris from the roads or highways."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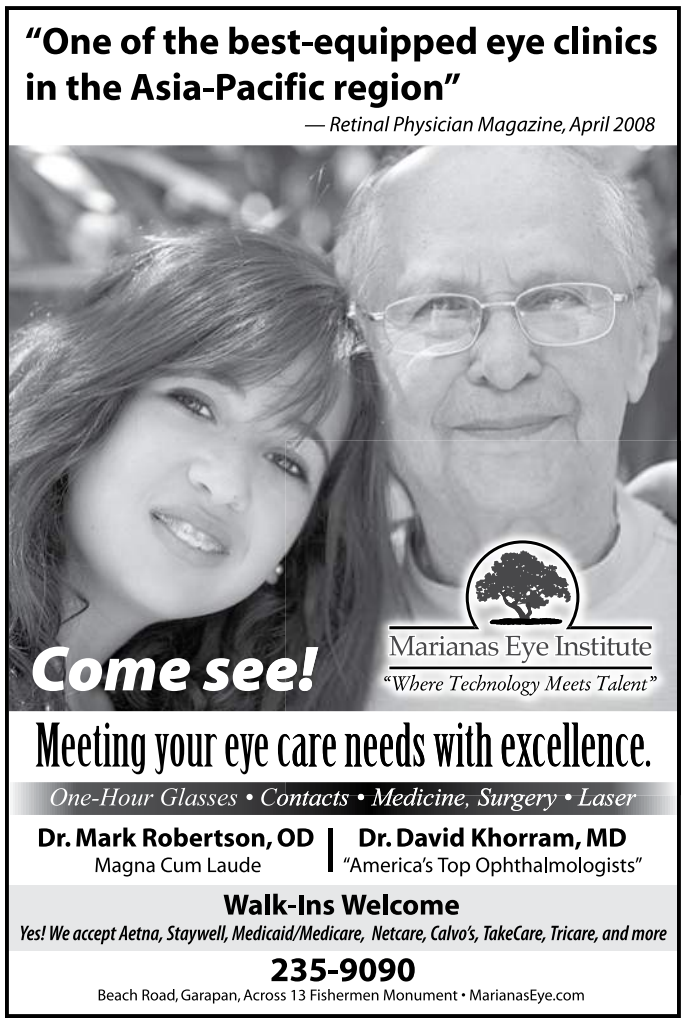
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Fire hits Caesar Sauna, employee hurt

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A short circuit in the stereo system triggered a fire at Caesar Sauna in Garapan Tuesday night, injuring one employee.

Medics treated the 30-year-old female employee at the scene for minor burns in her right palm, according to the Department of Public Safety yesterday.

DPS spokesperson Lei Ogumoro said DPS Central received a report of a fire at Caesar Sauna Tuesday at 10:24pm.

After four minutes, firefighters arrived at the scene and put the blaze under control at 11:01pm, Ogumoro said.

According to the DPS Fire Prevention Unit, the fire was confined to a small room on the second floor that was occupied by one of the employees.

Several occupants of the Caesar Sauna repeatedly attempted to extinguish the fire using fire extinguishers, but were unsuccessful.

Ogumoro said further investigation revealed that the electrical wires of a stereo system plugged into a wall-mounted receptacle had short-circuited. This caused the wooden base of the stereo system to catch on fire.

The DPS spokesperson said investigators noted that the room had a leaking roof, where water trailed toward the electrical outlet.

Moderate fire damage was confined to the affected room while smoke damage included almost half of the second floor.

However, Ogumoro said, major water damage spread out across the second floor as a result of suppression activities and the leaking roof.

"The cause of the fire has been determined to be accidental in nature," she added.

Miura's lawyer: The war is far from over

Berline files another motion to stay extradition order

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

"We lost the battle, but the war is far from over."

Thus said Bruce Berline, one of Kazuyoshi Miura's lawyers, reacting to the CNMI Supreme Court's decision Tuesday affirming the Superior Court's ruling to extradite Miura to California.

Yesterday afternoon, Berline filed an emergency motion asking the CNMI Supreme Court to stay Miura's extradition or his removal from Saipan to California while he pursues further proceedings in the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

"If this court does not grant a stay of extradition, Mr. Miura could be extradited at any time and thus forever lose his right to appeal these issues," said the lawyer in the 11-page motion.

He asserted that if the High Court grants the stay, Miura would be spared of serious and irreparable prejudice and harm, without any other party suffering harm or prejudice of any kind.

Alternatively, Berline said, they are asking the high tribunal to grant their client a temporary stay of at least three business days to allow him to apply for a stay in the federal court.

The lawyer said this case raises substantial legal issues both in the nature of the proceedings pending against Miura in the State of California and the propriety of California's 20-year delay in seeking Miura's extradition.

Shortly after the CNMI Supreme Court issued its written order Tuesday affirming the trial court's extradition order, Berline told the media that their next step is to request the Commonwealth's High Court for another stay of the extradition order.

"This will allow us to continue our process of appealing and get what we think are relevant and serious issues before the appropriate court. Right now that seems to be the U.S. District Court for the NMI," he said.

Berline said they are also still considering going to the U.S. Supreme Court.

A few hours after holding a hearing on Tuesday in Miura's appeal, chief justice Miguel S. Demapan, associate justice Alexandro C. Castro, and justice pro tem Jesus C. Borja affirmed Superior Court associate judge Ramona V. Manglona's extradition order.

The justices did not explain their decision, saying their reasoning in affirming Manglona's order will follow in a full opinion.

The 61-year-old Miura has been detained at the Department of Corrections since he was arrested at the Saipan airport in February. He is fighting his extradition to California where he is facing charges of murder and conspiracy to commit murder over the killing of his wife in 1981.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP08-GOV-097
Leak Detection and Repairs – Phase 3

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, through the CNMI Water Task Force, are soliciting sealed Proposals from qualified consulting and/or construction firms for the field survey, identification, and repair of water system deficiencies in the Lower MIHA Annex I and 2, Garapan Village and surrounding areas. The selected firm(s) shall use specialized leak detection methods in conjunction with on call construction services and information from the recently completed Chalan Kanoa/Susupe. Leak Detection and Repair Contract on the Island of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project Scope of Work will be available at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, on or after **September 15,2008.**

All questions concerning this proposal shall be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 pm, **September 25, 2008** to Pedro Sasamoto, WTF Program Manager (facsimile) number (670) 664-2279.

The proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations. Preference is available to local proposers per Public Law 15-95 as further amended by Public Law 15-118. If preference is claimed, it must be claimed at the time of proposal submission.

Four (4) copies plus one original of the sealed Proposals must be submitted to the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, MP 96950 no later than **2:00 p.m., (CNMI local time), on September 29, 2008**.

Proposals must be sealed and marked **"Leak Detection and Repairs - Phase 3, RFP08-GOV-097"**. For proposers within the CNMI, one (I) original and four (4) copies of sealed proposals must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than **2:00 p.m. (CNMI local time), on September 29, 2008**. Proposers located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of Intent to Propose. Notices of Intent to Propose must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than **2:00 p.m. (CNMI local time), on September 29, 2008**, and may be transmitted via facsimile to **(670) 664-1515** or email procurement@pticom.com. For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and four (4) copies of sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S, Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **September 29, 2008** AND must be received no later than **October 8, 2008**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

The CNMI reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal if to do so shall be in the best interests of the CNMI. All Proposals shall become the exclusive property of the CNMI government

/s/ Timothy P. Villagomez
Lt. Governor, CNMI

/s/ Herman S. Sablan
Director, Procurement & Supply

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Saipan Southern adds 5th period

Some Saipan Southern High School students are spending a little more time in the classroom this year.

"In order to accommodate students who need credits under the current system, we have no choice but to institute a fifth period," said SSHS vice principal Craig Garrison.

The added period means some students will be in class from 8am to 5:15pm.

Majority of the students with a fifth period class are students who were retained in that subject area, Garrison said. Currently, there are two English sections and two math sections and the school is considering adding a science section. Public schools students must earn 28 credits to graduate.

Students retained are not required to attend the fifth period; they can opt to take summer school, although summer school is dependent on funding and staff, Garrison said. The fifth period allows students and families to choose which option is better.

"[Families] may have other plans for the summer or students may work," he added.

School administrators will have to wait until the end of the quarter to see the results of the extra period. Fatigue and the fact that support staff leaves at 4:30pm are concerns for the administrators, Garrison said. ***(Kristi Eaton)***

VISA

From Page 1

tion law will help Guam meet the labor demands of the construction boom related to the military relocation to the island.

But Bice noted that, although an extension beyond the 2014 deadline is possible, the current law allows it only for the Northern Marianas, not for Guam.

"We are grateful to Congress for this visa waiver provision, but may need to extend the waiver beyond 2014 should program timelines necessitate," Bice said. He also said the Defense Department and JGPO would be in a better position to say if an extension is required once construction activity begins in Guam in early 2010.

Bice was one of the witnesses at a hearing conducted by the U.S. House Subcommittee on Insular Affairs yesterday at 4am Saipan time. The focus of the hearing was "Identifying Labor Solutions for the Guam Military Buildup."

U.S. Virgin Islands Rep. Donna Christensen, chairwoman of the House subcommittee, said the hearing was held to assure Guam residents that "they will be the first to fill jobs and that the federal government is assisting their institutions to prepare [them for the military buildup]."

Under the proposed Guam military buildup, approximately 8,000 U.S. Marines and 9,000 dependents will be transferred from Okinawa, Japan, to Guam. Construction of new defense facilities is slated to start in 2010, with the relocation to be completed in 2014. The cost of new infrastructure to be built could exceed $10 billion.

According to Bice's testimony, the Department of Defense estimates there are 5,600 construction workers currently available in Guam today. A study by the Naval Facilities Engineering Command, the Defense Department's construction execution agent on Guam, estimates that 6,000 to 20,000 off island workers will be required to reach the necessary work force strength.

The NAVFAC study says that approximately 6,000 workers will migrate to Guam from the continental United States or Hawaii to support the construction effort. The remainder would come from either the CNMI, the Freely Associated States, or from other foreign locations as non-immigrant construction workers requiring H2B visas.

MUÑA

From Page 1

PSS owes $1.8 million, CUC executive director Antonio Muña said yesterday.

"With central government and PSS, they really need to come to terms with reality," he said.

Muña earlier said that CUC was counting on the $3.4 million to help pay for the $6 million Aggreko generators, including $504,000 that is due in a few weeks.

PSS Education Commissioner Rita Sablan said that, according to their records, they do not owe money to CUC.

She earlier said school administrators have indicated there are discrepancies between what CUC's meter readers are calculating and what school meter readers are calculating.

PSS paid an average of $400,000 each month during fiscal year 2007 and paid $4 million to CUC for the entire fiscal 2007 year, she said.

"To our records, we don't owe anything," Sablan said.

Muña said yesterday he has asked one of his accounting officials to contact PSS to set up a meeting to reconcile the payments.

In July, PSS reallocated $1.6 million to CUC after Finance Secretary Eloy Inos became involved in the situation.

PSS' director of Finance would not release their payment records, but an Open Government Act request was submitted. An OGA request was also made for CUC's records.

Muña has been in communication with Inos regarding the government's outstanding debt, he said, adding that although the government provides important resources to the public, they are not immune to paying for their power.

"We know they provide services, but at some point they need to come to reality," he added.

For every dollar that CUC is owed and not paid, that's one dollar lost to the utility company, Muña said.

"If we have a large sector [not paying], that will really put some stress on us financially," he said.

Last week, Muña said he was hoping to receive the $3.4 million by the end of September, but yesterday he said he was now aiming to receive the money by the first week of October, in time to meet the Aggreko payment deadline.

Meanwhile, Jack Brown, an engineer from Guam's U.S. Naval Base, toured CUC's power plants yesterday, looking at the engines and control room.

"It will probably be some time before he makes any kind of assessment," Muña said, adding that Brown may make another visit. "[Yesterday] is just basically orientation, just a quick overview."

EX-BASEBALL

From Page 1

except for the mandatory minimum term of eight years, and a $5,000 fine, for sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree. Wiseman also sentenced the defendant to 10 years in prison, all suspended except for five years, and a $1,000 fine, for sexual assault in the second degree.

The judge said the sentences would run concurrently. This means the total prison term for San Nicolas is eight years in prison plus a $5,000 fine.

Wiseman gave the defendant credit for the two years he had already served in jail.

He placed the defendant on probation and required him to register as a sex offender and submit to HIV testing.

San Nicolas is prohibited from contacting the victims or having direct contact with any other minors during the probationary period.

The judge ordered him to pay, if any, future psychological expenses to the victims and required him to perform 500 hours of community service.

He ordered San Nicolas to pay a $100 court assessment fee plus probation fee.

Wiseman said the community has launched a campaign against child abuse and "this court supports such campaign."

He said the sentence is appropriate considering the seriousness of the crimes committed and to send a strong message to other potential child abuse offenders.

In this case, Wiseman said, defendant's action has caused trauma not only to the victims but their entire families as well.

He said one of the victims has been ridiculed by his peers and is so ashamed of himself.

Wiseman also noted that San Nicolas is not a stranger to the criminal justice system, having been convicted for assault and battery in 2006.

Before the sentence was rendered, San Nicolas asked for forgiveness from the victims and their families.

"I pray day and night. I promise it will not happen again," he said.

The Attorney General's Office charged the defendant with two counts of sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree and two counts of sexual assault in the second degree in June 2006.

San Nicolas and counsel Herbert D. Soll signed a plea agreement with the government, represented by assistant attorney general Rebecca Warfield.

Last April, San Nicolas pleaded guilty to one count of sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree and one count of sexual assault in the second degree.

According to the plea agreement, San Nicolas will be sentenced to a maximum of eight years in prison and a maximum $50,000 fine.

The factual basis of the plea agreement stated that on May 31, 2006, San Nicolas, at that time 39 years old, had sex with a 12-year-old boy. In May 2006, the defendant also engaged in sexual contact with another 12-year-old boy.

At the time, San Nicolas was a firefighter at the Department of Public Safety.

Soll refused to comment after the sentencing.

In an interview with *Saipan Tribune*, Warfield said she is satisfied with the eight-year sentence.

"At least the community will be safe for at least eight years and hopefully during that eight years a system will be put in place so that there can be some genuine movement toward rehabilitation of people who commit these types of offenses," Warfield said.

The prosecutor said it is not sufficient that these kinds of people just be warehoused and then separated from the public.

"However, if someday they are going to be released, we really need to look toward putting a system in place to try to address some of the underlying issues," she said.

CASINO

From Page 1

casino gambling, can attract new business.

Rota's economy has suffered in recent years due in part to a major decline in tourism to the CNMI. According to local officials, many on the island rely on the government for employment while others depend on government assistance or work on farms.

"It's really tough right now," Sen. Paul Manglona (R-Rota) said in an interview this week. "There's no work, not many tourists and the prices for food are high."

Yet through the efforts of lawmakers and the island's leaders, the tourism industry there has recently seen a noticeable boost due to a new chartered airline service deal that has brought droves of new visitors to the island from Japan.

Henry S. Atalig, chief of the CNMI Department of Commerce's Rota branch, said in an interview that the Japanese flights gave an estimated 10 percent jump in customers to Rota's hotels, restaurants and shops.

A renewal of the flight deal—inked with a tour company and Continental Airlines—is likely, he added, and a similar deal to attract Korean travelers to the island through a chartered flight service next year could draw more tourist dollars to Rota. The flights are a key element in an effort by local leaders to jumpstart the economy.

"Our main economic activities here on Rota are agriculture and tourism," Atalig said. "We never had the garment industry and what we're trying to do now is shift away from the government being the largest employer here."

Meanwhile, the farmers of Rota have carved out a niche in the local produce market by selling staple crops like sweet potatoes and business people are working to market their home, promoted to travelers as "Nature's Treasure Island," as an ecotourism destination.

These developments come as Rota businesses are eying a planned military buildup in Guam as a major prospect for economic growth. Guam is now preparing for the arrival of an estimated 8,000 U.S. armed forces personnel and their 9,000 family members, who are slated for relocation from Okinawa, Japan, to the island.

At a recently opened shrimp farm on Rota, a staff member displays one of the thousands of young shrimp being raised there. The farm expects to harvest its first crop of shrimp later this year and market them in Guam.

STEFAN SEBASTIAN

The move will require the construction of marine infrastructure for naval ships and a host of new building projects. The military's plans are also expected to touch Pagan and Tinian, which officials have said could serve as a staging ground for training.

"We hope to capitalize on that buildup," Manglona said. "There's going to be some spill-over."

For Rota, the nearest island in the CNMI to Guam, the buildup means a chance for added tourism and a burgeoning new market close to its shores. For example, the owners of newly opened aquaculture operation say they are looking to Guam and the buildup as an ideal venue to sell locally raised shrimp.

According to Atalig, farmers on the island also see an opportunity in the buildup and Rota's leadership has already begun fostering relationships with military officials in order to take advantage of it.

Tourism on Rota could also see an increase due to casino gambling, an industry that is poised to take root on the island in the near future after a newly formed commission completes a series of rules and regulations for it. Rota's voters approved opening the island to casinos in a ballot measure during the last election.

Rota Gaming Commission chair Diego Songao said in an interview that at least three firms from Japan and Korea have already expressed interest in building casinos on the island. However, plans for the casinos are on hold now until the release of the regulations and when exactly that might happen is uncertain as the commission, he said, is waiting on funding to hire a consultant needed to guide the process.

Yet whenever the rules are released, casino gaming has the potential to serve as a major economic boon for the island.

"If we do this carefully, we can attract good investors," Manglona said. "I think that's a case for optimism."

Pula: NMI may be eligible for $11M grants

The Northern Marianas may be eligible for $11 million in federal grants for capital improvement projects in fiscal year 2009, according to a visiting official of the U.S. Department of the Interior.

Nikolao Pula, director of the Interior Department's Office of Insular Affairs, said the money will be available to the Commonwealth once the U.S. Congress makes the appropriation.

"It will not be available right away because we're still on continuing resolution. But that is the amount the CNMI will be eligible to receive, assuming Congress approves it," he said.

Pula is on island to meet with local leaders about the Commonwealth's electrical power situation and how the Interior Department can help. He said discussions will focus on the CNMI's resources and its long-term plans for the power system.

According to the OIA website, the CNMI has received almost $8 million in CIP funds this fiscal year. About $5.57 million will fund the installation of an instrument landing system and other projects at the Tinian International Airport. The remainder is for various projects including the Rota Health Center, Saipan Marpi Public Cemetery; Koblerville and Kagman high school; Saipan power plant rehabilitation; and collateral equipment for the Rota public library.

With the Interior Department's consent, millions of dollars in CIP funds have already been reprogrammed to the repair of Saipan's power plants. The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is expecting to need about $2 million to $4 million for the rehabilitation of two major engines at the main power plant. Today is the deadline for bids for this project. CUC is looking to OIA to provide the funding this effort. ***(Agnes E. Donato)***

Man'amko receive $1K worth of rice

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A group of Korean tour guides donated more than $1,000 worth of rice to the *Man'amko* Advisory Council yesterday at the Office on Aging.

Nearly 100 tour guides chipped in to buy 30 50-lb. bags of rice.

"We'd like to extend our big thank you. Thank you to the Korean tour guides. Thank you very much. God bless everyone," said Francisco Reyes, chairman of the Manamko Advisory Council

This is the first time the tour guides have donated to the Council. They plan to make donations twice a year to the *man'amko* and once a year to the Public School System.

Ji-Won Choi, one of the tour guides, said the donation is meant to show the guides' appreciation

"We're using their land for our work," he said. "We wanted to show thankfulness to those who have lived here a very long time."

Walter Mangloña, the events coordinator for the Office on Aging, said the donation comes at a good time.

"[The donation] is big as far as the economy goes here," he said. "The number of clients goes up each month."

The bags will be split between Saipan, Tinian and Rota, based on the number of *man'amko* and handed out. Whatever is left will be used for a party, Manglona said.

Russian media company films shows in NMI

A Russian media company that produces two shows called "Tourist Club" and "Bez Bashni" was recently on Saipan, Tinian and Rota filming for their channel. The media company, which is on its sixth year in business, has an estimated viewership of 300,000. The program is broadcast weekly and is tourism-driven. The estimated ad value of the programming is $100,000.

"Tourist Club" is a program focusing on travel destinations around the world and showcasing history, culture and attractions.

Tenorio

"Tourist Club" has done programs about Korea, Japan, Thailand, China, Italy, Spain, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Vietnam, and Egypt. The program was established in 2002 and received several awards, one of which is "Teffi – Region." The program airs once every two weeks.

"Tourist Club" will make three different programs: one program about Saipan, one about Rota, and one about Tinian. In addition, there will be three two-minute spots that will be aired on Far East News. Also, there will be 30 30-second spots and each which will be aired on International news.

"Bez Bashni" is a program specializing in extreme tourism around the world. "Bez Bashni" did programs about the underwater world in Egypt and Korea. Three times they filmed programs about different mountains that are more than 5,000 meters high and programs about different volcanoes, where each time went down the volcanoes, and more.

"Bez Bashni" was twice named the best sport program in Russia. In 2005, "Bez Bashni" represented Russia in an international sports program contest in Italy.

"The media exposure gained from this group will provide tremendous exposure for the CNMI as a premier tourist destination," said MVA managing director Perry Tenorio. "The Russian visitor is a strong contributor to the tourism economy in the CNMI and the additional media should only improve that." ***(MVA)***

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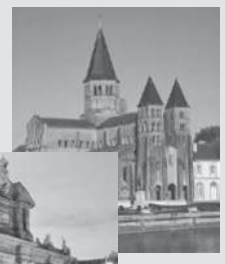

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DOI convenes insular areas health summit

WASHINGTON, D.C.— Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne announced yesterday that he is bringing together senior-level federal health officials and the leaders of the U.S. territories and freely associated states to find ways to improve health care for those communities.

"The Future of Health Care in the Insular Areas: A Leaders' Summit" will be held at the Marriott Hotel in Honolulu, Hawaii, on Sept. 29-30, 2008.

Joining Kempthorne at the Insular Areas Health Summit will be:

- Secretary of Veterans Affairs James B. Peake;
- Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness David S.C. Chu;
- Health and Human Services Assistant Secretary for Health Joxel Garcia, M.D.;
- Gov. Togiola Tulafono of American Samoa;
- Gov. Felix Camacho of Guam;
- Gov. Benigno R. Fitial of the Northern Mariana Islands;
- U.S. Virgin Islands Health Commissioner Vivian Ebbesen Fludd;
- Lt. Gov. James Aiona of Hawaii;
- President Manny Mori of the Federated States of Micronesia;
- President Litokwa Tomeing of the Marshall Islands; and
- Vice President Elias Chin of Palau.

Also participating are U.S. Virgin Islands Delegate Donna M. Christensen, M.D., and American Samoa's Delegate Eni F.H. Faleomavaega.

"The federal government has a responsibility to help our territories and freely associated states meet the challenges they face in providing quality health care for their people," Kempthorne said. "Whether the challenge is education, funding, equipment, personnel, training or facilities, we must work to build partnerships and expand programs, leverage resources and develop strategies to help island leaders improve and expand their public health services."

Summit participants will also include federal, state and island officials responsible for health care in the Insular Areas as well as private health care professionals and private organizations.

On Sept. 29, the opening session begins at 9am in the Kona Moku Ballroom; a news conference will be held in the Oahu Room at 12:15pm and a working lunch will be held in the Waikiki Ballroom.

Discussion topics and presentations will include the challenges and opportunities in:

- Serving Island Communities: Island Health Officials;
- Telehealth in Insular Areas: Remote Communication with Health Care Professionals for Services and Information;
- Addressing Critical Shortages (Personnel, Equipment and Infrastructure): Capacity Building and Quality Assurance Programs, Partnerships, Engaging Volunteers;
- Caring for America's Military Heroes and Public Services: The Role of the Department of Defense and the Department of Veteran's Affairs in Addressing Military and Veterans Health Care in the U.S. Territories and Freely Associated States; Partnerships for Services to Civilians. ***(DOI)***

CNMI State Rehabilitation Council

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
P.O. Box 501521 SAIPAN, MP 96950,
TEL:(670)322-6538 FAX: (670)322-6536
TTY (670) 322-6449 E -MAIL: voc. rehab@saipan. coin

PUBLIC NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
Joint Meeting (SILC and SRC)
Fiesta Resort – Azuzena Room
Sept. 25, 2008 @ 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

AGENDA

I. Welcome & Introduction

II. Nature of Annual Joint Council's Meeting

III. Accomplishment Reports
- SILC Chairperson
- SRC Chairperson
- OVR Director

IV. Mutual Projects
- accessibility & accommodation issues for consumers
- identification of funding sources
- Resource Plan
- 2008 Nat'l Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM)

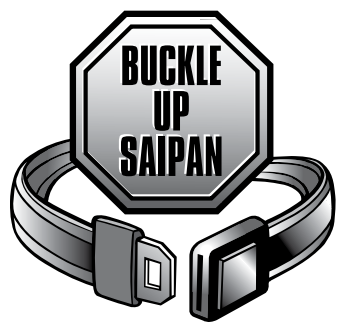
V. Schedule of 2009 Joint Council Meeting

VI. Announcements/Miscellaneous

VII. Adjournment

Jerry McVicar
SILC Chairperson

Gregorio C. Sablan (Kilili)
SRC Chairperson



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CPA gets 3 K-9 dogs to boost ports' security

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Transportation Security Administration has awarded three certified K-9 dogs to the Commonwealth Ports Authority to boost security measures at NMI airports and seaports.

The three bomb-sniffing dogs arrived on island last week from Lackland Air Force Base in Texas.

Three CPA police officers—Mark Toves, Byron Kaipat, and Jessie Castro—also completed 10 weeks of K-9 training at Lackland Air Force Base.

CPA ports police deputy chief Jordon Lee Kosam said yesterday that it is the first time for CPA to acquire K-9 dogs.

Before, only the CNMI Customs Division had K-9 dogs.

Kosam said the primary duty of CPA's K-9 dogs is to provide an additional element to explosive recognition at airports and seaports

He said the K-9 dogs may also be needed in detecting explosives in other areas such as buildings and schools.

"They're there for recognition of improvised explosive device and to safeguard life and property," Kosam said.

He said CPA and Customs will be working together in enforcing the K-9 programs.

"Having three K-9 teams from CPA and one from Customs make it better for us to work together. Having three additional dogs means it is easier for everybody to cover areas that need to be covered such as the airports, seaports and other government places," he added.

APAFS' investment conference close to full, delegates urged to book ASAP

Members of the fiduciary and investment community who have not yet signed up for the 8th Annual Pacific Region Investment Conference are being urged to do so as soon as possible, while slots are still available.

Conference host Asia Pacific Association for Fiduciary Studies will be holding the event on Oct. 9-10, 2008 at the Grand Ballroom of the Renaissance Makati City Hotel in Manila, "so expect the venue to be fully booked by this time although accommodations may still be availed in nearby hotels."

Students, entrepreneurs, and anyone with a keen interest on current regional fiduciary trends are also welcome to attend.

The two-day event boasts of a roster of noted lecturers and presentors, including famous contrarian investor and *Gloom Bloom and Doom Report* editor/publisher Dr. Marc Faber as keynote speaker, together with Philippine Sen. Edgardo Angara, sponsor of the recently-passed PERA Law, as featured speaker.

With the kind of high-caliber program that APAFS has prepared, attendance confirmation is nearing 300, with delegates flying in from around the globe and coming in from a number of U.S. destinations and across the Asia-Pacific region just to get the chance to participate in the event.

"Listen to financial experts and professionals from the U.S. and around the Pacific Rim, learn about the latest trends and practices in fiduciary management, network with hundreds of individuals and organizations from the fiduciary industry, and get complimentary membership from the Asia Pacific Association for Fiduciary Studies," APAFS said in a statement. ***(APAFS)***

Social Security rep sets visit to Tinian and Rota

A representative of the Social Security Administration will be on Tinian and Rota to accept social security number applicants, reports of any change regarding eligibility, and answer questions regarding programs administered by Social Security.

The representative will be on Tinian today, Sept. 25, at the Tinian Community and Cultural Affairs Office located at the Tinian Gymnasium, from 8am to 1pm. On Monday, Sept. 29, the representative will be on Rota at the Office on Aging located at Sinapalo Village from 10am to 4:30pm.

To apply for a social security number, *original* or *certified* documents *must* be present; *no photocopies are acceptable*. First-time U.S. citizen applicants must present a birth certificate, proof of identity and, if under age 12, a parent must present his or her identity. For a replacement card, a U.S. citizen must present proof of his or her identity and citizenship. All proof of identity *must* be valid. Non-U.S. citizen applicants must present an *original valid* passport and CNMI Entry Permit or U.S. Permanent Residency Card.

The Social Security Office makes quarterly visits to Tinian and Rota.

"We urge all residents to make time to visit the representative regarding any Social Security matter. For more information please contact the office at 234-6203," the Social Security Administration said in a statement faxed to media offices. ***(SSA)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Chacha holds PTSA meeting today

The Chacha Ocean View Jr. High School will be having its first PTSA meeting today, Sept. 25, 2008, at 6pm-7pm, in the school cafeteria. Agenda include the school's SAT10 and standards-based assessment results for School Year 2007-2008, and the election of new PTSA officers. Should you have any questions and/ or comment, call 237-3921 or 664-4100. ***(PR)***

Meeting for Chinese workers with unpaid Labor awards

The United Workers Movement, NMI is organizing another meeting related to the planned class action lawsuit on unpaid administrative orders. This time, the meeting, which is set on Sept. 28, Sunday, 3pm at the Amphitheater of the American Memorial Park in Garapan, will be exclusive to Chinese workers.

All those who will join the lawsuit are requested to bring a copy of their Administrative Order, which should have been issued within the last six years, and a filing fee of $12. Lawyer Robert Myers Jr. will preside the meeting. A Chinese translator was also invited to assist.

United Workers Movement, NMI and Myers are still accepting signed agreements until Sept. 30, 2008. Blank agreement forms are available at the front desk of Summer Holiday Hotel in Garapan or interested parties may sign during the meeting on Sept. 27. Meeting will start on time.

For more details, interested parties may contact Irene Tantiado at 285 7717 or email at irenebdi@yahoo.com. ***(PR)***

Car seat check on Tinian, Rota

The Department of Public Safety on Tinian will be conducting a courtesy car seat inspection on Saturday, Sept. 27, 2008, from 9am to 3pm, at the department's parking lot in San Jose.

That same day, the Rota DPS will be conducting a courtesy car seat checkup at Pinatang Park from 9am to 3pm. Certified child passenger safety technicians will be available to inspect safety seats to ensure they are correctly installed. This is a free service to the community.

The Department of Public Safety encourages parents and caregivers on Tinian and Rota to stop by to learn more about proper installation and use of child safety seats and booster seats. ***(DPS)***

The 8th Annual Pacific Region Investment Conference
OCTOBER 9 - 10, 2008 MANILA, PHILIPPINES
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APAFS 8th Annual Investment Conference Close to Full, Delegates Urged to Book ASAP

Members of the fiduciary and investment community who have not yet signed up for the 8th Annual Pacific Region Investment Conference are urged to do so, as soon as possible, while slots are still available. Conference host Asia Pacific Association for Fiduciary Studies (APAFS) will be holding the said event on October 9-10, 2008 at the Grand Ballroom of the Renaissance Makati City Hotel in Manila, so expect the venue to be fully booked by this time although accommodations may still be availed in nearby hotels. Students, entrepreneurs, and anyone with a keen interest on current regional fiduciary trends are also welcome to attend.

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Don't miss this exciting opportunity! Get to listen to financial experts and professionals from the US and around the Pacific Rim, learn about the latest trends and practices in fiduciary management, network with hundreds of individuals and organizations from the fiduciary industry, and get complimentary membership from the Asia Pacific Association for Fiduciary Studies.

Register now! Call 1-671-649-0883 or email admin@apafs.org today. For more information about APAFS and the 8th Annual Pacific Region Investment Conference and sign-up details, you may directly access their website at www.apafs.org or call 1-671-649-0883.

Highest turnout at ABE orientation

More than 115 students—the highest turnout ever—participated in a recent orientation conducted by the Adult Basic Education Program at the Northern Marianas College.

The orientation was meant to familiarize new students with the programs and services offered on campus. These include counseling, financial aid, tutoring, computer lab assistance, student leadership opportunities, and career planning.

"The high number of students who have enrolled in the ABE program, particularly in the ESL and GED programs, prompted us to step up the education and awareness efforts for our students," said Tee Abraham, dean of Community Programs and Services. "We want to be sure they are well informed about—and take advantage of—the resources that are available to help them remain in school and succeed."

The available services were highlighted through presentations made by Chrislaine Pangelinan of Counseling Programs and Services, Marissa Mafnas of Admission and Records, Daisy Manglona-Propst of Financial Aid Office, Heather Santos of Educational Talent Search, Elsie Skang-Ngewakl of the Educational Enrichment Center, Greg Quitugua of the Computer Lab, and Ivan Mereb, ASNMC president. NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez was also present to deliver the welcoming remarks.

The evening's keynote speaker, Ross Manglona, director of NMC Cooperative Research, Education and Extension Services, shared his experiences as a GED graduate, emphasizing the importance of family support.

The orientation also included presentations from other staff members of the ABE Program: Adult Basic Education state director and GED administrator Lorraine Cabrera provided information about different programs under the Adult Basic Education that include the Adult School, General Education Diploma, English as a Second Language, and Family Literacy. ABE instructor/coordinator Elsie Cabrera focused on the interpretation of GED National Test scores and her role as instructor coordinator to include NMC's main site and other school community partnering sites on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota; ABE instructor/counselor Velma Mafnas focused on the CASAS Assessment being used along with NMC-ABE's new data management software so that students can understand the importance of CASAS and how it relates to them. Mafnas also dispensed some key advice to help the students stay and succeed in the ABE program. ***(NMC)***

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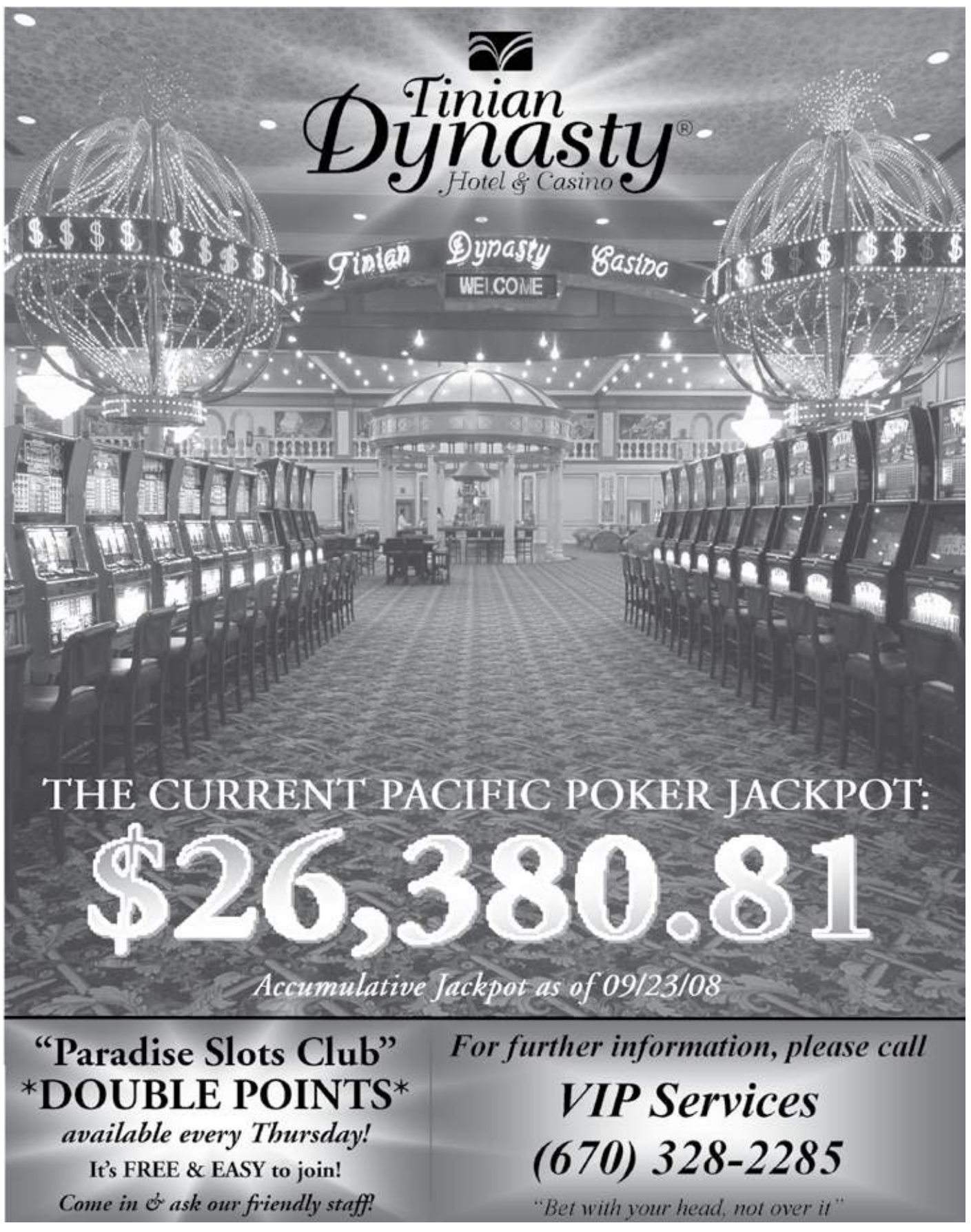

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

September 25, 2000

Senate fires legal counsel

TINIAN—Senate legal counsel Steve Woodruff will have to look for another job when he returns from an off-island trip paid by the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. The reason? Frustrated senators on Friday fired him for leaving behind his work in the upper house to focus on his other job at CUC, which hired him temporarily to assist the board in the negotiation for the Saipan's 60-megawatt power project.

Teno okays creation of free trade zones

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio on Friday finally gave his approval to an ambitious plan to create free trade zones in the CNMI in a bid to lift the sagging economy, but urged the Legislature to correct several provisions he has found troubling. This is the second time such concern was raised which the governor pointed out early this year when he vetoed the first proposal.

Officials anticipate growth in Tinian economy

TINIAN—Emotions ran high during the groundbreaking ceremony for the new airport runway here as government officials and business leaders project significant growth in the island's slumbering economy once the project is completed in 18 months. Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio said the construction, as well as the completion, of the new West Tinian International Airport runway is sure to bring numerous economic benefits that will bring the CNMI closer to its goal of sustainable development and self-reliance.

September 25, 2001

Warning up against mad cow disease

Import restrictions have been imposed against the entry of beef products into the CNMI following confirmed reports on the presence of mad cow disease in neighboring Japan. The Department of Lands and Natural Resources yesterday released a notice, informing the public of the disease which was found in one, five-year-old dairy cow in Chiba Prefecture in Japan early this month.

50 percent drop in shipping activities seen

Major wholesalers and retailers in the Northern Marianas have started downsizing their orders for basic goods and other merchandise due to the significant drop in overall demand. This will translate to a 50-percent reduction in shipping-related activities that is also anticipated to impact other business sectors in the CNMI, according to Alex Sablan, Association of Seaport Tenants and Operators of Saipan president. Sablan said that consumer demand for a wide range of goods and commodities have dropped, forcing wholesalers and retailers to drastically cut the volume of the merchandise they ordered abroad.

Gov't moves to stop disruption in services

Faced with the possible plunge in tourism revenues, CNMI officials are now focusing their efforts on ways to sustain the present revenue level of the government to ensure that essential services will not be disrupted. Rep. Antonio M. Camacho, chair of the House Committee on Ways and Means, said that present efforts being undertaken by the government aim to maintain the current level of revenue being generated.

September 25, 2002

11 NMC officials terminated

Eleven managers and directors of the Northern Marianas College were terminated yesterday following the implementation of a campus-wide reorganization initiated by newly appointed president Kenneth Wright, PhD. Based on the NMC's "Organization Redesign Plan," which was approved by the NMC Board of Regents during its regular meeting Tuesday, 11 posts have to be removed to effect change and ensure efficiency in the college.

House to discuss NMC reorganization

Some senior employees adversely affected by the Northern Marianas College's reorganization yesterday sought the audience of House Speaker Heinz S. Hofschneider to request for the House's intervention. After listening to the grievances of the employees who were still reeling from what they viewed as an "abrupt" decision by the college, Hofschneider reportedly decided to call a meeting to give the NMC administration the opportunity to air its side of the story.

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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The Associated Press Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

A better bailout

The bailout that Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson has proposed for the U.S. financial system could cost as much as $700 billion, or about $2,300 for every American man, woman and child. Taxpayers rightly expect to receive something tangible in return for such an investment, and there are at least four things policymakers can and should deliver.

Paulson's proposal would let the Treasury Department buy mortgage-related assets from financial firms with few constraints on how the power would be used. For an administration accustomed to overreaching, such a request for unfettered authority is neither surprising nor welcome; the Bush White House is in no position to ask for that kind of trust. Congress should make the Treasury's bailout efforts subject to the same oversight -- by Congress and the courts -- as its nonemergency actions, while also requiring that banks compete for aid and that taxpayers be protected against wasteful spending on overpriced assets.

Some lawmakers want to force lenders that receive aid to halt all foreclosures, but that would reward borrowers who bought homes they couldn't afford even at today's reduced values. Instead, lawmakers should make it easier for lenders to help borrowers who can afford to stay in their homes until the housing market rebounds. The Treasury should lead the way by agreeing to write down loan values and reduce mortgage interest rates, and by taking other steps to keep the mortgages it acquires out of default wherever practical. Doing so wouldn't just help homeowners, it would lower the bailout's ultimate cost to taxpayers.

Wary of the political backlash, some congressional Democrats want to leaven the aid for Wall Street with money for infrastructure projects, more tax rebates and low-interest loans for automakers. The political appeal of such proposals isn't matched by any broad economic benefits, however. A simpler and more sensible approach is to extend unemployment benefits, which would stimulate consumer spending and boost the economy.

Finally, more needs to be done to protect against another subprime mortgage fiasco. The Federal Reserve Board took an important step in July when it updated its "truth in lending" rules to guard against some types of predatory lending. The California Legislature then passed AB 1830, which adds several new protections, including a ban on lenders paying mortgage brokers more when they persuade subprime borrowers to take costlier or riskier loans. Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger has threatened to veto the bill because it (like the federal truth-in-lending rules) would allow borrowers to sue lenders for future violations. The governor's concern is based on a hypothetical binge of lawsuits, whereas the problems addressed by AB 1830 are real and documented. The governor should do his part to avert the next $700-billion bailout by signing this bill.

Together, these steps would improve the proposal, stimulate the economy and better protect consumers.

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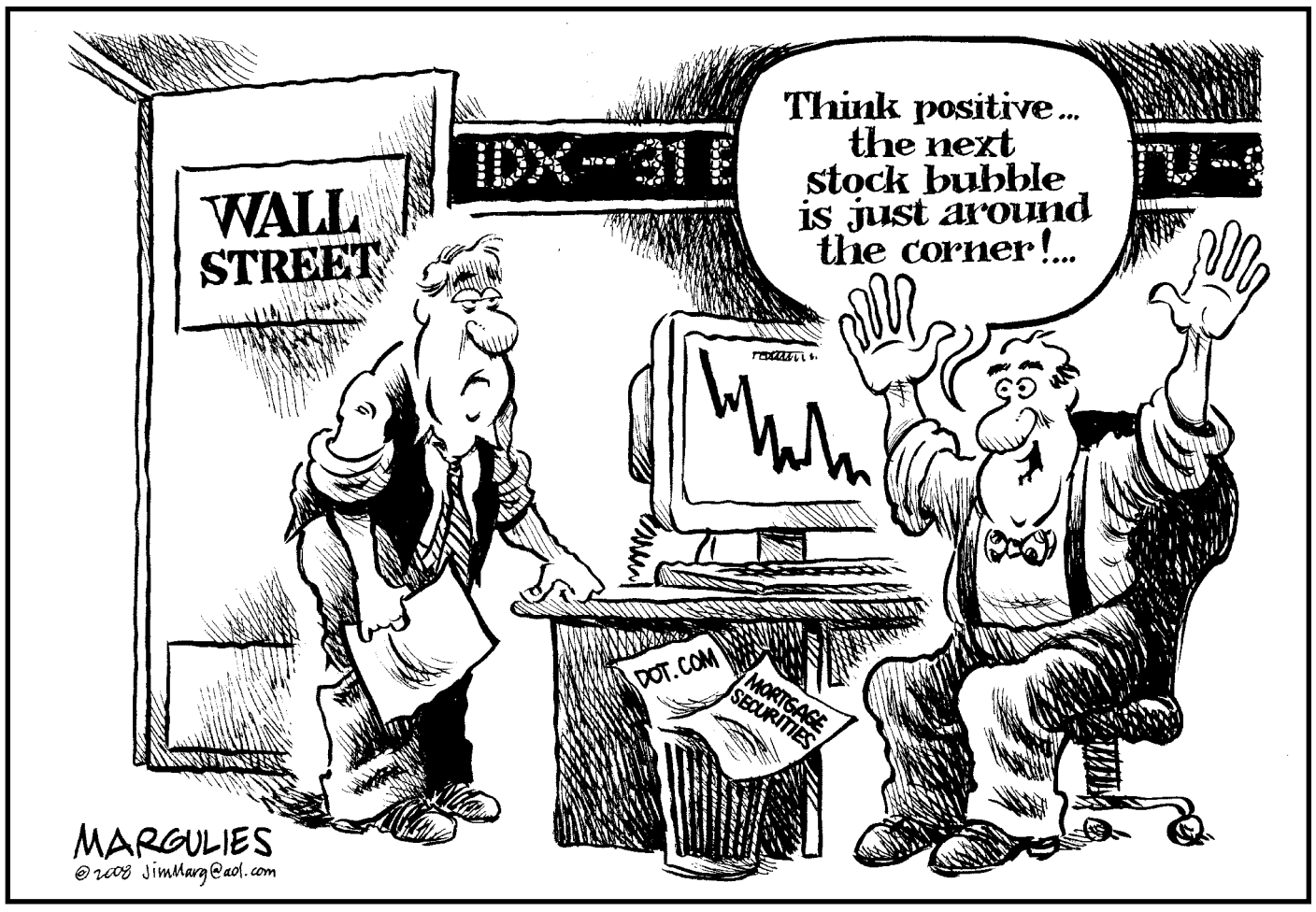


Things seen disappear

The only way to take control of your life, raise your standard of living and move beyond merely surviving is to create your own unique product or service that you offer to increasing numbers of people in exchange for the things of value that you desire. This simple formula applies to countries as well as people. A self-sufficient economy has its own products or services of value to export to the world. Similarly, a self-sufficient individual has something of value to exchange in the global marketplace. That thing of value is based on your natural talent, skill, or interest—in other words, your passion!

From little slights and errors
to the evil things you did
You violate agreements, lock them up
then close the lid

You walk around so weighted
standing up takes all your might
Distorted truths, deeds justified
just so you can be right

You couldn't risk admission
so withholding's how you cope
You'd die if they found out
and so you slide the slippery slope

Your burden takes its toll
and mind and heart begin to stray
You soon withdraw from life
just blow things off or run away

Your anger, accusations,
paranoia and false pride
Reveal you see in others
what you feel most times inside

But truth provides the freedom
from the mire that you made
Confront the truths of past offence
accept where you have strayed

For once it's seen for what it is
it ceases to exist
For only lies can linger
with the power to persist

You'll gain respect and rebuild trust
and live life fully here
Yes, all it takes are open eyes.....
for things seen disappear

THE SAIPANPRENEUR PROJECT

Creating economic success for the CNMI

By WALT F.J. GOODRIDGE
Special to the Saupan Tribune

Send article suggestions, entrepreneur nominations and feedback about this article to walt@passionprofit.com.

According to experts, the biggest reason a person restrains and withholds himself from action is because he or she has committed an "overt." An overt is simply a harmful act or a transgression against a moral code of a society or agreements of a group. In other words, taking money from your mom's purse when you were a child, accidentally scratching someone's car in a parking lot and not leaving them a note, betraying a trust or expectation in a relationship, or partnership, speaking ill of someone behind their backs, or stealing paper or paper clips from the office supply closet are all overts.

Typically, once someone commits an overt, the next thing he or she does is "withhold" the transgression (i.e. doesn't confess or talk about it) for fear of penalty or punishment. In order to live with themselves, they then must justify the action in their minds in an effort to lesson the overt. You've surely heard people say, "well, he/she drove me to or made me do it," or "this'll make up for them not paying me what I'm worth," or some other elaborate reasoning to justify the original act.

The sad truth, is that these justifications don't really work, and eventually, the strain of continuing as part of a relationship, partnership, group or society which you've betrayed, leads you to sabotaging, ending, leaving relationships, jobs or otherwise just withdrawing into inactivity. This explains why many partnerships and marriages end, why many people jump from job to job, and why many new year's resolutions and promises are broken and fail: essentially people break a trust, and then can't live with themselves, so they run away.

But there is a way to move beyond being stuck in the web of a lingering past offence: Write it down, admit the truth, accept your role and responsibility and let it leave. Whatever your transgression, take the time to do this simple yet powerful exercise:

1. Write down the exact overt of commission or omission. 2. Then state explicitly the specifics regarding the action or inaction including the (a)time, (b)place, (c) the form (how things were arranged) and (d) the event itself.

Example:

"1. I hit a friend's car when backing out of my parking space at work and caused about five hundred dollars worth of damage to his car.

2. On the 30th of June 2007, when I was leaving work, I was backing out of my parking space and hit the back end of my friend Joe's car. There was no one else around and the parking lot as almost empty. I drove away without leaving a note or telling Joe, knowing that I caused about five hundred dollars damage to his car which he had to pay for."

3. Hand it to someone you trust who will simply read it, acknowledge that you did it but without comment, judgment or opinion about the content.

See THINGS on Page 13

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, Century Insurance Building, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

The Old Man in the Sea conquers Saipan

"Consult not your fears, but your hopes and dreams. Think not about your frustrations, but about your unfulfilled potential. Concern yourself not with what you have tried and failed in, but with what it is still possible for you to do." – Pope John XXIII

RIK/JANEL VILLEGAS
Jim Bell finished his swim around Saipan on Sept. 20. The day after this accomplishment, Sunday, Sept. 21, 2008, we drove him to the top of Mount Tapochau to see the island he swam around. This view shows Lau Lau Bay in the background. The clouds had covered the mountain when we got to the top, but after a few minutes the wind blew them away and you can see the cloud in the background is about the height of Mt Tapochau.

By RIK and JANEL VILLEGAS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Rik is a business instructor at NMC and Janel is a partner with BizResults, LLC (www.bizresults.org). They can be contacted at biz_results@yahoo.com.

Having a goal to swim around Saipan would be a lifetime accomplishment for anyone, but for 70-year-old Jim Bell, it is just one of many adventures he has decided to tackle during his golden years. After starting his journey to swim around 45 miles of Saipan's reef on July 4, 2008, Jim Bell completed his last leg on Saturday, Sept. 20.

This event was just a warm-up for a much more dangerous swim he plans from Papua New Guinea to Australia. Jim wanted to condition his body and get a natural tan so he'll be able to endure the 80-mile distance as he swims to scattered islands between the two shores. However, the Saipan swim took a little longer than planned, so if he went now he would be swimming during the saltwater crocodile's mating season. Besides the possibility of interrupting amorous crocodiles, there are also deadly box jellyfish to contend with.

During his swim around the island, he saw numerous black-tip and white-tip sharks. When we witnessed him jumping from a rock into the pounding waves at Jeffery's Beach, we saw birds immediately come from their resting places to make diving swoops and follow him. We counted about 20 birds that probably thought he was going to make a kill for them to grab a morsel or become the kill. Jim said he saw about six black-tips that day, but they were more curious than aggressive. His 4.9-mile swim to Forbidden Island traversed several beaches where many have lost their lives to the sea, but after almost seven hours of swimming, Jim emerged with a fatigued smile.

Ironically, Jim's most dangerous stretch was in the lagoon close to Managaha Island. He had two close calls that day when a small boat nearly hit him, and he was pushed aside by the wave from the bow of a large vessel. After those incidents, he started swimming with a balloon attached to his belt by a string, so he could be easily spotted. That practice had been abandoned by the time we took him to Jeffery's Beach because he said the balloons kept popping.

Jim's inspiration to swim around Saipan probably came from a goal he accomplished 28 years ago. He swam around the entire reef and shoreline of Guam while he was serving in the Navy. Now, with Saipan under his belt he has ambitions to swim around the islands of Tinian and Rota while waiting for the crocs to settle down before he dives into the waters off of New Guinea.

What motivates a person like Jim Bell to attempt goals that most people would not dream of trying? After his swim around Guam, he retired from the Navy so he could swim the channel between Saipan and Tinian in 1981. The swim to Tinian took over 12 hours, due to a storm and uncooperative currents. After that swim, he says that his life was pretty ordinary and he missed the life of adventure, so he decided he would swim back across the channel from Tinian to Saipan on his 70th birthday, June 9, 2008.

Now, most—make that all—people would take the ferry from Saipan to Tinian to get ready for an island swim, but not Jim Bell. He told us he plans to cross the channel once again from Saipan. The target date for that swim is Saturday, Oct. 4.

Just as Michael Phelps accomplished the almost impossible goal of eight gold medals in a single Olympic, Jim Bell has accomplished something that no other person has been recorded to do, nor will probably ever accomplish in the future. He swam the channel both ways, swam completely around Guam and Saipan, and will make a third swim across the channel prior to going around Tinian and Rota. Oh, and for good measure he plans to swim around Goat Island before he leaves Tinian.

What makes all great leaders and successful people alike is their ability and tenacity to accomplish a goal or achieve a vision. However, there are many people who live quiet lives of desperation because they simply have given up or never had a goal in the first place—except to just survive another day. Thanks Jim for reminding us that it only takes a decision and commitment to achieve whatever you set out to accomplish.

"The tragedy of life doesn't lie in not reaching your goal. The tragedy lies in having no goal to reach. It isn't a calamity to die with dreams unfulfilled, but it is a calamity not to dream." —Benjamin Elijah Mays

Time for long-term solutions

Everyone who has been involved with the CNMI in the last decade has witnessed a destruction in the quality of life that people would've have never thought possible in 1998.

Funny how quickly everything changes. The closure of the last big garment factory seems to be yet another blow to an economy that is already reeling from a severe drop in tourism in the CNMI, the disastrous rise in the price of fuel which rose $16 yesterday, and our beloved CUC which is not only insolvent, but a victim of poor management and bad decisions over the last 20 years.

While many citizens are calling for the impeachment of the governor and are visibly angry at their local politicians, the responsibility for this mess lies on our laps as well. Why? Because until we demand and are prepared to accept real change, we deserve what we got coming to us.

What do I mean? We still cling to the notion that our people are somehow an endangered species that need "protection" from the outside world. By restricting the amount of people who can buy land to other locals who already have it, or don't really need it, we unfairly cap the price of land owned by these very indigenous. Article XII is making them poorer by the day. This law is robbing them of income that should be theirs when they sell their own land. Look at their cousins in Guam, they are not protected or told that they can't make decisions for themselves. So while we are having a hard time paying for gas, they are driving around in new Lexus and BMWs, all fruits of the real estate boom Guam is experiencing today.

The CUC privatization law is another example of what needs to change. Sure, we can mandate what "we" want an investor to come in with. We can ask for $250 million and a host of other conditions. But ladies and gentlemen, we live in a world where electric companies have choices as to where they invest their money. And we ain't on their most wanted list. Therefore, when we reach the point where we are fed up with waking up three times a night because of the blackouts, perhaps we should write our well-meaning Legislature and ask them to drop all these preconditions.

Let's invite the world over and ask those who are the experts what we must do to entice them to invest long term in the CNMI. Again, we are an island whose economy is in tatters, with 70,000 people, many of whom may not be around in five years. How can we demand that someone sinks $250 million into this island? What if the costs of construction goes down? Does it mean all of us are willing to give the operator $30 million per year in profit after taxes, or a 12 percent return (which is actually low in a world of high risk and no credit)? Ladies and gentlemen, we need to get real. We are in no bargaining position to ask for such terms. It's been 20 years since Japanese businessmen parachuted here with bags of money, and our economy has been reduced to rubble.

By RICKY DELGADO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Delgado is the president and CEO of PTI.

So really now, even if people change this administration in midstream, with a year to go before an election, it would only waste scarce time to find long-term solutions to our problems. Fact of the matter is, as long as the albatrosses of Article XII and the CUC are tied around the governor's neck, no matter who you put there, he or she will suffer the same fate.

You want change, and are fed up with the situation, then clamor to realistically privatize CUC with no preconditions or insider dealings, and be done with Article XII once and for all.

While these changes by themselves will not immediately change the fate of our ship, at least it will give the Commonwealth a chance down the road of reversing its ill-fated course.

Letters to the Editor

The concept behind the proposal

Jim Davies wrote that he has yet to see "Pew supporters offer any substantial proof to the concept behind the project."

1. We're not "Pew supporters." We're *Friends of the Monument*, supporters of marine conservation, people who want to preserve and protect our natural world.

2. The concept behind the project has been written about extensively—it's marine conservation. Some people have obviously missed all of the information that has been circulated throughout the CNMI about the benefits of marine conservation; information available not just recently, but for years. We have a lot of information about the state of our oceans and the benefits of marine sanctuaries, both from scientific studies and from our own experiences with the ocean.

3. The Marianas Trench Marine Monument project is essentially a project to have the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone waters around Uracas, Maug, and Asuncion declared a monument, making them a federally protected marine sanctuary. The CNMI Constitution has already made the islands themselves a CNMI land sanctuary. But the ecosystem, the water, and submerged land, the EEZ, is under U.S. control. The proposal, if adopted, would extend the same type of protection the CNMI has given to the islands into the waters, and provide for CNMI and U.S. co-management of the marine sanctuary and federal funding.

Here's a very brief synopsis of the "concept behind the project":

The world's oceans are in rapid decline. The crisis of our oceans is likely to get worse: 77 percent of our oceans' fisheries have already been fully exploited, or worse, overfished; or worse yet, exhausted, according to information from the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization. Estimates by an international team of university research scientists over a four-year period concluded that by 2048, 90 percent of all (edible) marine life will be gone.

Overfishing is the main reason that our marine ecosystems are depleted, according to eminent scientists. And overfishing continues to deplete our oceans, despite the regulations and enforcement by WESPAC and other U.S. federal agencies and international efforts.

We need our marine life; it is the core of biodiversity. And it's not inexhaustible. Fixing the regulatory system would help, but it is not enough alone. This is the concept of not putting all your eggs in one basket that Mike Trip has previously written about—we can't trust just one method to deal with this very real crisis.

One of the few proven methods of species recovery and ecosystem protection is the creation of no-take ocean reserves, also known as sanctuaries and marine monuments.

All of these statements are easily supported by information that is readily available for any person who wants to be informed about marine sanctuaries and the need for protecting our ocean

See THE CONCEPT on Page 13

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly sunny with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼77°	▲87° ▼78°	▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲87° ▼78°

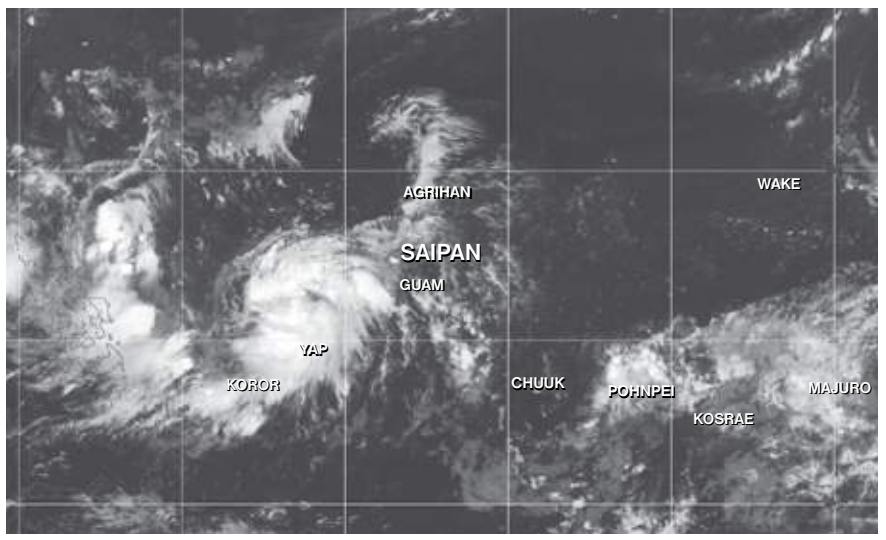
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲85	▼76
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼77
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼78
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼70
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼76
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼75

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲61	▼50
Beijing	Cloudy	▲70	▼50
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼82
Honolulu	Showers	▲83	▼74
London	Partly Sunny	▲64	▼48
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲84	▼62
Manila	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼76
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	▲72	▼60
Miami	Partly Sunny	▲87	▼74
New York	Showers	▲67	▼58
Osaka	Rain	▲82	▼68
Paris	Mostly Sunny	▲62	▼50
Pusan	Showers	▲76	▼60
Rome	Partly Sunny	▲72	▼53
Salem	Cloudy	▲67	▼46
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲73	▼54
Seoul	Showers	▲70	▼55
Tokyo	Showers	▲78	▼67
Washington, DC	Rain	▲70	▼56

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2008
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A monsoon trough extends southeast from the northern Philippines through 16N130E to Tropical Storm 19W north of Yap near 12N137E then east-southeast to a weak circulation in Pohnpei state near 7N158E. For more detailed information on Tropical Storm 19W, refer to warnings issued by the JTWC under WMO header WTPN32 PGTW. Convergence associated with Tropical Storm 19W is producing numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms within 120 miles of 12N137E and scattered showers within an area bounded by 6N133E to 12N143E to 16N136E back to 6N133E. Low level convergence associated with the disturbance near Pohnpei is generating scattered showers from 6N to 9N between 156E and 160E. Trade wind convergence is producing areas of scattered showers from Kosrae eastward to the Marshall Islands from 5N to 10N between 164E and 177E. This area includes Majuro. Upper level lows centered near 21N143E and 24N179E are producing widespread mid-level cloudiness south and east of their centers and few showers.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

1:13AM Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
9:20AM Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
5:05PM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
10:17PM Today	Low Tide:	1.3 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:06AM	6:11 PM
Friday	6:06AM	6:10 PM
Saturday	6:06AM	6:09 PM
Sunday	6:06AM	6:09 PM
Monday	6:07AM	6:08 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	2:05AM	3:15PM
Friday	3:04AM	3:59PM
Saturday	3:59AM	4:39PM
Sunday	4:52AM	5:16PM
Monday	5:43AM	5:53PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2008

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota

CO 9313	8:30am	9:05am	3,4,7

Saipan-Guam

CO9317	4:00am	4:50am	Daily
CO9597	8:30am	9:20am	1,2,5,6
CO9313	8:30am	10:00am	3,4,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	Daily
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

Saipan-Narita

NW 099	5:00am	7:30am	Daily
NW 078	8:55am	2:00pm	Daily
NW 075	4:55pm	7:25pm	Daily

Saipan-Osaka

NW 083	4:20pm	6:55pm	Daily

Saipan-Nagoya

NW 078	8:55am	11:35am	Daily

Saipan-Seoul

OZ 604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ 604	2:50am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2,4,6,7

Saipan-Busan

OZ 608	3:50am	7:20am	1,5

Guam-Manila

CO 891	6:00am	10:30am	3 via Yap and Koror
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	5 via Koror
CO 933	7:00pm	8:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:45am	1,2,4,6,7

Saipan-Guanzhou

CZ 3008	5:00am	8:00am	2,6

Guam-Rota

CO 9598	10:15am	10:45am	1,2,6

ARRIVALS

Rota-Saipan

CO 9598	11:10am	11:45am	1,2,6

Guam-Saipan

CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	Daily
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9598	10:15am	11:45am	1,2,6 via Rota
CO9600	10:45am	11:35am	3,4,5,7
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

Narita-Saipan

NW 076	10:15am	2:50pm	Daily
NW 077	6:25pm	1:30am+1	Daily
NW 100	8:45pm	1:20am+1	Daily

Osaka-Saipan

NW 084	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily

Nagoya-Saipan

NW 077	9:00pm	1:30am+1	Daily

Seoul-Saipan

OZ 605	9:00am	2:30pm	2,4,6,7
OZ 603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6

Busan-Saipan

OZ 607	9:30pm	2:50am+1	4,7

Manila-Guam

CO 892	11:45am	8:25pm+1	3 via Koror and Yap
CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	5 via Koror
CO 934	10:55pm	4:30am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:20pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7

Guanzhou-Saipan

CZ 3007	8:00pm	4:00am+1	1,5

Rota-Guam

CO 9313	9:30am	10:00am	3,4,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

Letters to the Editor

This week's special

Gosh, I have lots of choices of topics today for a heck of a letter to the editor. Slam CUC! The governor's lawsuit vs. federal immigration! Federal immigration itself! Washington representative! Marine monument proposal! Never a dull moment in the CNMI. Slamming CUC again is akin to hitting a deaf person with a hammer because he cannot hear. CUC has hearing; it just chooses not to hear. Kind of like the governor. I say just let the FBI sort out that mess.

So I will hack about the recent letter to the editor from Mr. James Davies (Saipan Tribune, Sept. 23). His letter "A Pew Solution to the Problem" is this week's special. It appears that now, since the writers of the CNMI Constitution have come forward and embraced the monument as fully within the intent of Article 14 of that document, opponents have now chosen to discredit the messenger, Pew. That said and now placed aside, let's look at Mr. Davies' question: "In what way will the future generations benefit from this by closing off these natural resources?" First, the monument will not close any natural resources. It will keep other people from eating those resources into extinction. And since it is such a small speck of the world's oceans, you can still have your fish sandwiches. Second, eco-tourism is not make believe. Worldwide it is a billion-dollar industry and growing rapidly. There are now bloodless safaris in Africa, polar bear watching tours in Churchill Canada, whale watching trips in Mexico, California, Oregon, Washington and Alaska. And that is just the West Coast! There are eco-tours to the Arctic and Antarctica. There are rainforest tours in Latin and South America where tourist actually go from tree canopy to tree canopy 60 to 100 feet off of the ground! Then there are all those nature shows on TV. Nobody pays money to look at dead animals or dead fish. People are making money by not killing their natural resources. Do not forget the scuba diving tourists here in the CNMI. They pay good money to come look at the reefs and fish. Think about this, if you sell someone a fish to eat, you can only sell it once. When they come and pay to take pictures of that fish, you can use that same fish over and over again! The fish just gets bigger! And like eco-tourists everywhere, they also spend money on transportation, hotels, restaurants, food, beer, sunscreen and even junk souvenirs. And all those businesses pay taxes on that income. Money, Mr. Davies, that is one benefit to the CNMI from the monument.

To use your analogy, Disneyland was not built overnight. There were years of planning before construction was ever started. Then there were years of actual construction. And then they close the gates everyday to those who want in for free. Everyone else pays to enter. Just like they would have to pay to enter the northern islands. Building eco-tourism in the CNMI will take years. I think that MVA would take exception to your statement that "people already know we are here." Yes, I am sure that many people know that of CNMI's garment industry's labor abuses—real imaginary. We need to change that image and that will not be done overnight.

Why the heck would you want Pew to come in and buy tour boats, build a world-class school of oceanography, or otherwise operate our eco-tourism industry? That is a real slap in the face to businessmen here in the CNMI. There are experienced tour companies here that would be happy to start the ball rolling where there is a demand for their services. They are not about to turn down the new opportunity for increased revenues. They have both the money and expertise. I am sure local businessmen would rather not have Pew involved in our eco-tourism. The whole idea is to generate money for the CNMI, not Pew. The NMC can always hit up Pew or even the feds for a possible grant for some sort of marine research facility at a later date.

With the proposed marine monument, Pew has offered the people of the CNMI an option and a hand to help them pull themselves out of their current economic pit. It took years to dig that pit. It will take years of planning and work to get out of it. Pew has brought the option to the table, now it is up to the people of the CNMI to help themselves out of their pit. Nobody else can do that for us.

Brad Doerr
San Roque, Saipan

THE CONCEPT

From Page 10

life. You can check out my blog, Saipanwriter.blogspot.com, for direct links that support each of these statements, or you can do your own research. *Friends of the Monument*, in their support for creating a national marine monument in our northernmost waters, aren't making up anything new or suggesting some radical, unproven idea.

The proposal under consideration now for the CNMI is to create a no-take marine reserve around our three northernmost islands, and still allow fishing around all of the other islands. The Marianas Trench is a beautiful, almost pristine, and unique ecosystem that is worth protecting. Designating the waters around Uracas, Maug, and Asuncion as a National Marine Monument will make it a protected marine conservation area under NOAA sanctuaries program, with CNMI co-management (something we don't have right now).

And voila! Because there already is a tremendous amount of scientific evidence that protected marine areas help conserve, preserve, and restore marine ecosystems, we can expect that our Marianas Trench Monument would have the same ecological, environmental effect.

That's the "meat" of the proposal and the "substantial proof" of the concept behind it.

All other potential benefits—global recognition that will act as free advertising for our tourism industry, federal funds coming in here for a visitors center that could enhance the tourist experience and create jobs, scientific research that will add to our knowledge of our unique Marianas Trench, spillover education benefits from scientists present in the CNMI, etc.—are gravy. They appear to be logical and likely consequences of designation of a monument here.

But in essence, Friends of the Monument want to create a marine sanctuary, and that is a well-documented means of preserving and restoring healthy ecosystems; that is the proven concept behind the proposal. And that is why I support the Marianas Trench Marine Monument proposal.

Jane Mack
San Vicente, Saipan

THINGS

From Page 10

Though helpful, it's not even necessary to confront the wronged person or group. Give it a try. You'll be surprised at how freeing this simple act can be and how much more productive, prosperous you can be in the moments, days and months that follow! Now, would be a perfect time to start!

Adapted from "Integrity and Honesty" based on the works of L.Ron Hubbard.

Here's a quote I like:

Do you know what happens when folks distrust the trustworthy?

They begin attracting the untrustworthy.

Ain't pretty. (from tut.com)

Note: *For more tips on overcoming your fears, acting on your ideas, changing the game, and creating a passion-centered lifestyle, visit www.passionprofit.com!*

■ ■ ■ ■

Until next week, remember, success is a journey, not a destination!

Walt F.J. Goodridge is author of 12 books including Turn Your Passion Into Profit. *Walt offers coaching and workshops to help people pursue and profit from their passions. Originally from the island of Jamaica, Walt has grown several successful businesses in the US, and now makes his home here in Saipan. To learn more about the Saipanpreneur Project and Walt's philosophy and formula visit www.saipanpreneur.com and www.passionprofit.com.*

Commonwealth I Sankattan Siha Na Islas Mariana
Ofisinan I Gubietno
Dipåttamenton I Tano' Pupbliku

NOTISIA POT MAPROPOPONE NA ATKILONTANO PUBLIKO

Segun gi lai 15-2, I Depattamenton Tano ha anununsia planon atkilon tano publiko giya Saipan, Commonwealth i Sankattan siha na Islas. Todo man-interesao libre munahalom opinion `sino infotmasion pot imapropopone na plano nuson tano publiko. Maprebeniye lokue isigiente siha na infotmasion para benefision publiko tat komo:

i. I tineteka na tano publiko madeskribe komo 003 A 11 (49,450 metro kuatdrao), 003 A 20 (49,503 metro kuatdrao), yan 003 A 19 (10,000 metro kuatdrao) maso sino menos nigaige giya Magpi, Saipan. Kopian lugat este siha nasitiu gaige gi Depattamenton Tano ni libre maina nu I publiku.

ii. I para u inatkilai Flame Sako Resort yan Spa un kotporasion guine giya Marianas. I membron direktot siha isigiente: Kang Dae Sik, Joon Sung Jung yan Woon Hwa Chung.

I Presidenten I kompania si Kang Dae Sik; Chun Sik Min, Segundo Presidente.

iii. I para u atkila ilugat para u usa gimahatsan fasilidat hotel yan otro siha na fasilidat.

I tetminonestena kontrata para 25 años ya siña ma-ekstende talo 15 años.

I mapropopone na atkilon manegosio as Señot Young Woo Lee.

iv. Libre hao mamaisen kopianestena plano gi Depattamenton Tano ni gaige gi segundo bibienda gi Joeten Dandan, Saipan; offisinanTano Publiko giya Luta yan Tinian.

v. I Depattamenton Tano ta ya otro plano ha resibe gi uson este siha na propiadat publiko giya Magpi, Saipan.

vi. I Sekretarion Depattamenton Tano Publiko siña ha resibe todo ninahalom opinion yan materiat pot este na proposito uttimo gi Oktubre 3, 2008 todo Offisinan Tano Publiku giya Saipan, Tinian yan Luta.

ARONGORONG REEL POMWOL AKKILONUL FALÚWEER TOULAP

Sángi Tálil 106 (b) mellól Alléghúl Toulap ye 15-2, Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap ekke atotoowow ammataf igha ebwe akkilaaló eghús falúw mellól Seipél, Commonwealth Téél Falúwasch Marianas. Schóókka eyoor máfiyeer rebwe isisilong ischil mángámangiir, aweewe, aingiingil reel pomwol akkilonul ammwelil falúweer toulap. Me bwal Alléghúl Toulap ye 15-2, e ayoora, lamal aweewe kka rebwe mweiti ngali milikka ebwe akkatééló.

i. Pomwol akkilonul falúweer toulap ekke bwáári Lot No. 003 A 11, eyoor faigh me tiwow sangaras fabwughuw limeigh me tiwow llapal (49,459 square meters), elap me ngáre eghús, Lot No. 003 A 19, faigh me tiwoow sangaras, lima bwughuw elluw (49,503) sq. meters llapal, elap me ngare eghuus, me Lot No. 003 A 20,, seigh sangaras (10,000) sq. meters, llapal, elap me eghus, elo Máschepi, Seipél. Tilighial bwuley yeel nge eyoor llól Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap (Public Lands) ngare óubwe ghuley fischiy.

ii. Schéschéél schóól akkilon nge Flame Sako Corporation. Schóól Assamwoolul mwiisch (board of directors) mellol corporation nge Dae Sik Kang me Chun Sik Min.

Samwoolul (President) corporation nge Dae Sik Kange. Vice President nge Chun Sik Min.

iii. Schóól akkilon ebwe yááyá bwuley ngali schagh akkayul hotel me akkaw iimw kka a fillong.

Tool aighúghúl pomwol akkilon ebwe ruweigh me limwoow ráágh (25 years), emmwel rebwe sóbweey ngáli bwal seigh me limwoow ráágh (15 years).

Pomwol akkilon ebwe mwir sángi llapal méél falúw (value of the property).

Schóól aweweel akkilon nge Young Woo Lee.

iv. Emmwel óubwe bwughil tilighial akkilon mellól bwulasiyool ammwelil falúweer toulap, elo aruwowal pwó(2nd floor) me Joeten Dandan Commercial Building llól Dandan, Seipél; aruwowal pwó (2nd floor) mellól Bank of Saipan Commercial Buiding, Luuta; me ngáre mmwal pwó (1st floor) mellól Kings Commercial Building, Tchúlúyól.

v. Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap nge esáál bweibwogh mwo akkááw pomwol akkilon yeel me Máschepi, Seipél.

vi. Samwoolul Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap ebwe bwughil aweewe kkaal, aingiingil, mereer amweyút aramas mmwal schagh Ottuubre (October) 3, 2008 mellól Depattamentool Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap iye elo Seipél, Luuta me Tchúlúyól..

NOTICE OF PROPOSED LEASE OF PUBLIC LAND

In accordance with Section 106 (b) of Public Law 15-2, the Department of Public Lands hereby gives notice of its intent to lease certain public lands in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any interested parties of the general public may submit comments, data, views, or arguments of alternative proposals for the lease of the public land. As further provided by Public Law 15-2, the following pertinent information is required to be published.

i. The proposed lease of public land is described as Lot Nos. 003 A 11, 003 A 19, 003 A 20 containing areas of approximately 49,500 square meters, 10,000 square meters, and 49,503 square meters (respectively), more or less, situated in Marpi, Saipan. A copy of the location of the parcel is available at the Department of Public Lands for inspection.

ii. The prospective lessee is Flame Sako Corporation, a CNMI corporation. The Board of Directors of the corporation are Dae Sik Kang, Joon Sung Jung, and Woon Hwa Chung.

The President corporation is Dae Sik Kang. The Vice President is Chun Sik Min.

iii. The lessee shall use the premises solely for the purpose of developing and operating a resort hotel and spa and related facilities.

The term of the proposed lease agreement is 25 years, with an option to extend the lease for an additional 15 years.

The proposed annual rental during the term is based on a percentage of the appraised fair market value of the property.

The proposed lease was negotiated by Mr. Young Woo Lee.

iv. A copy of the proposed lease agreement may be obtained at the office of the Department of Public Lands, located on the 2nd floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan; the 2nd floor of the Bank of Saipan Commercial Building, Rota; or the 1st floor of the Kings Commercial Building, Tinian.

v. The Department of Public Lands has received no alternative proposals to lease the subject public land in Marpi, Saipan.

vi. The Secretary of the Department of Public Lands shall accept written comments, views, arguments or alternative proposals from interested parties on or before October 3 , 2008 at the Department of Public Lands offices located in Saipan, Rota or Tinian.

LOCAL

A time of remembrance

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The CNMI delegation to the "A Time of Remembrance" in Washington, D.C. at national tribute on Sept. 20, 2008. In photo are, from left, Walter Villagomez, Vicky Calvo, Jose Charfauros, Gianny Calvo, Ana Charfauros, Sonny Charfauros, Gerald Calvo and Ed Pangelinan.

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Traveling from the island of Rota to the nation's capital, Jose Charfauros, wife Ana, and son Sonny joined more than 4,000 Americans on the grounds of the Washington Monument in Washington, D.C. in a national tribute to the nation's fallen and the families they left behind. The tribute was a celebration of the lives of those who died for freedom and a celebration of that freedom.

Jose and Ana Charfauros are the parents of Cpl. Joe Junior Gogue Charfauros Jr., the first Iraq war casualty from Rota. Charfauros was one of the U.S. soldiers killed on June 20, 2007, in Baghdad, Iraq, following injuries from an improvised explosive device that blew off near their vehicle. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 64th Armor Regiment; Second Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division at Fort Stewart, Georgia. Besides his wife Stellita, he is also survived by his three children: Mikeangela, Junelle and Joe II.

Charfauros was the third CNMI resident to die in Iraq last year and is the sixth casualty from the Commonwealth, following the previous five deaths of Sgt. Yihiyh "Eddie" Chen, Staff Sgt. Wilgene Lieto, Cpl. Derence Jack, Lance Cpl. Adam Quitugua Emul, and Cpl. Lee Roy Camacho.

The purpose of the celebration was to unite all Americans in remembrance, honoring all those who died to protect the United States and included a special tribute to more than 200 children who lost their parents in Operations Enduring Freedom or Iraqi Freedom.

Family members from every state as well as Puerto Rico, American Samoa, the Virgin Islands, Guam and the CNMI whose relatives died in American conflicts from the Revolutionary War to Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraq Freedom were in attendance.

In a statement to the Charfauros family, Resident Representative Pete A. Tenorio said: "Our citizens in the Commonwealth join you and our fellow Americans in our nation's capital in this landmark event paying tribute to America's fallen heroes and the families they left behind. Nothing can be said that will ease the pain or erase the burden of your grief. We celebrate, however, the magnificent legacy of love of country, family, friends, and freedom your loved ones left to us." ***(PR)***

USCG to establish Station Apra Harbor

GUAM—The U.S. Coast Guard will establish Station Apra Harbor, the first small boat station in the Mariana Islands, tomorrow, Sept. 26.

The establishment ceremony will be held at U.S. Coast Guard Sector Guam at 10am. Capt. Stephen E. Mehling, Chief of Staff, U.S. Coast Guard District 14, will preside at the ceremony. Chief Boatswain's Mate Eric J. Benafel will become the first Officer in Charge of Station Apra Harbor.

Station Apra Harbor will join 188 other Coast Guard small boat stations throughout the United States.

There will be 17 active duty enlisted personnel and 11 reserve enlisted personnel assigned to the station, with a Chief Boatswain's Mate as the Officer in Charge. The station crew will maintain and operate four boats: three 25' Defender Class boats and one 21' Rigid Hull Inflatable boat.

As an independent command operating under U.S. Coast Guard Sector Guam Response Department, Station Apra Harbor will be well suited to carry out the Coast Guard missions in support of America's maritime safety, security, and stewardship interests.

As one of the Coast Guard's front-line commands for maritime safety and security, the new station will be heavily tasked with performing law enforcement, search and rescue, homeland security, and homeland defense operations. ***(USCG)***

Audit: Wide abuse of Chuuk travel funds

POHNPEI, Federated States of Micronesia (Kaselehlie Press/PIR)—An audit issued by the Office of the National Public Auditor (ONPA) on August 28, 2008 says that the Travel Section of the Chuuk State Government did not do its job to protect travel funds from misuse and abuse in 2006 and 2007.

The Travel Section is charged with handling the details of insuring that travel is properly approved, records are kept, and collections are performed for advances issued for travel.

Chuuk State budgeted US$536,762 for travel in 2006. They actually spent US$388,276. For reasons unknown the budget for travel was increased to US$796,961 for 2007. The State spent only US$347,433 that year.

The preliminary survey for the audit revealed several questions concerning travel by DOE personnel. As a result the travel vouchers auditors chose for review were mostly for travel vouchers of that department.

ONPA said "however, since the Travel Section processes travel forms from all departments and offices in a similar manner, our findings and recommendations are applicable to all other employees' travel advances, liquidation and outstanding travel advances for the other departments, offices, and agencies of the Chuuk State Government."

Business

Dire warnings fail to sway lawmakers on big bailout

WASHINGTON (AP)—Refusing to be pushed, Republicans and Democrats alike rebuffed dire warnings Tuesday from the government's top economic officials of recession, layoffs and foreclosed homes if Congress doesn't quickly approve the administration's emergency $700 billion financial bailout plan.

Congressional leaders still predicted passage - with significant changes - but Wall Street's nerves were hardly soothed. The Dow Jones industrials sank 161 points and now are off more than 500 this week after initially surging on the bailout announcement last week.

Deepening market trouble was just one piece of the economic havoc that Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke and Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson told senators would ensue if Congress lags in acting on the administration's proposal to rescue tottering financial institutions.

"I share the outrage that people have," Paulson said. "It's embarrassing to look at this. I think it's embarrassing to the United States of America. There is a lot of blame to go around."

But without the bailout plan, Paulson and Bernanke sketched out a dire scenario for senators at a contentious daylong hearing: Neither businesses nor consumers would be able to borrow money, and the world's largest economy would grind to a virtual halt.

In public and in private meetings, both Democrats and Republicans said big changes are needed, presaging a difficult road ahead for the measure.

The legislation the administration is promoting would allow the government to buy bad mortgages and other rotten assets held by troubled banks and financial institutions. Getting those debts off their books should bolster those companies' balance sheets, making them more inclined to lend and easing one of the biggest choke points in the credit crisis. If the plan works, it should help lift a major weight off the national economy that is already sputtering.

One Wall Street firm got a boost Tuesday with word that Warren Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway Inc. is investing at least $5 billion in Goldman Sachs. It was a huge vote of confidence for one of the survivors of the credit crisis that felled two of its investment banking peers.

The news sent shares of Goldman Sachs and stock index futures soaring in electronic trading, after the Dow Jones suffered declines.

Democrats were determined to wrest concessions from the administration on domestic spending and middle-class economic aid. And they said Republicans had to share in the politically tricky task of pushing through a financial bailout six weeks before the elections at a time when millions of everyday Americans are economically strapped.

"It's their problem. It's their bill. And they're going to have to figure out if they can support it," House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., said of Republicans.

"Nobody wants to have to do this," agreed Rep. John Boehner of Ohio, the Republican leader. He said he was hopeful of a quick agreement, despite withering criticism from conservative GOP lawmakers who recoiled at the prospect of federal intervention.

Sen. Jim Bunning, R-Ky., said, "This massive bailout is not a solution. It is financial socialism and it's un-American."

Separately, law enforcement officials said the FBI had begun investigating four institutions whose collapse helped trigger the financial crisis.

The FBI is looking at potential fraud by mortgage giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc. and insurer American International Group Inc., said two officials, speaking on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the investigations. The inquiries, still in preliminary stages, will focus on the financial institutions and the people who ran them, one senior law enforcement official said.

As for the bailout plan, both parties' presidential candidates joined fellow senators in insisting on alterations in the administration's drastic prescription.

Democrats and Republicans alike demanded that the bailout limit pay packages for executives of companies helped by the rescue.

"Clipping executive compensation is easy right now—everybody wants it," said Rep. Jack Kingston, R-Ga.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

FBI investigating companies at heart of meltdown

WASHINGTON (AP)—The FBI is investigating four major U.S. financial institutions whose collapse helped trigger a $700 billion bailout plan by the Bush administration, The Associated Press has learned. Two law enforcement officials said Tuesday the FBI is looking at potential fraud by mortgage finance giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, and insurer American International Group Inc. Additionally, a senior law enforcement official said Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc. also is under investigation. The inquiries will focus on the financial institutions and the individuals that ran them, the senior law enforcement official said. The law enforcement officials spoke on condition of anonymity because the investigations are ongoing and are in the very early stages.

Berkshire buying $5 billion stake in Goldman Sachs

OMAHA, Neb. (AP)—Warren Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway Inc. is investing at least $5 billion in Goldman Sachs, a huge vote of confidence for one of the survivors of the credit crisis that felled two of its investment banking peers. In addition to buying $5 billion in preferred stock, Berkshire also got warrants to buy another $5 billion in Goldman's common stock. Goldman also said late Tuesday it would raise another $2.5 billion in its own public stock offering. The news sent shares of Goldman Sachs and stock index futures soaring in electronic trading, after the Dow Jones Industrial Average posted a triple-digit decline for the second day in a row.

AIG says signs deal for $85 billion from Fed

NEW YORK (AP)—American International Group Inc. said on Tuesday it completed the deal under which it is getting an $85 billion injection of taxpayer money, while the government gets an 80 percent stake in one of the world's largest insurers. New York-based AIG said it signed a definitive agreement with the Federal Reserve Bank of New York for the deal that was hammered out last week. The agreement provides a two-year $85 billion emergency loan at an interest rate of about 11.5 percent to AIG, which teetered on the edge of failure because of stresses caused by the collapse of the subprime mortgage market and the credit crunch that ensued.

Nation

Iran's leader gives thumbs down during Bush speech

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—Iran's leader flashed a thumbs-down Tuesday as President Bush denounced Tehran as a sponsor of global terrorism in his farewell address to the U.N.

Then Bush got less than 10 seconds of polite applause at the end of a speech in which he urged world leaders to take "an unequivocal moral stand" against suicide bombings, hostage taking and other terror tactics.

It was a decidedly low-key appearance, rehashing familiar themes, devoid of the passion Bush displayed in the early years of his presidency when he summoned the world after Sept. 11, 2001, to a battle against terrorism and tried—but failed—to win U.N. backing for the war in Iraq.

The president, humbled by economic turmoil that has darkened the final days of his presidency, also tried to speak reassuringly to the leaders about the financial upheaval on Wall Street that has forced him to set aside core principles of capitalism and authorize government takeovers of failing companies.

"I can assure you that my administration and our Congress are working together to quickly pass legislation approving this strategy," Bush told the General Assembly. "And I'm confident we will act in the urgent time frame required." Bush scrapped a planned political trip to Florida on Wednesday to return directly to Washington.

Bush's 22-minute address in the packed, 2,000-seat hall was mostly a restatement of his previous condemnations of terror, calls to advance democracy and criticism of the United Nations for "inefficiency and corruption" and "bloated bureaucracies." Still, Bush said the U.N. and other multinational organizations are now "needed more urgently than ever" to combat terrorists and extremists who are threatening world order.

With only 119 days remaining in his presidency, Bush found his usually busy schedule of one-on-one meetings with other world leaders had dwindled to a bare minimum. He talked with Pakistan's new president, Asif Ali Zardari, about Saturday's truck bombing in Islamabad and held a last-minute meeting with Uganda's leader, Yoweri Museveni. Peace talks have faltered between Uganda and the Lord's Resistance Army, which has been waging one of Africa's longest and most brutal rebellions.

Bush also met on Governors Island with a political dissidents from a dozen countries, from China to Cuba, and attended a USAID conference on food security.

At the General Assembly, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad sat in the massive hall and seemed intent on showing disinterest as Bush spoke. He waved to the people in the galleries along the side and flashed a broad smile. Turning to an aide as Bush spoke, Ahmadinejad made a fist and turned his thumb down to the desk.

AP

President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, right, makes a 'thumbs-down' gesture during President Bush's address to the 63rd session to the United Nations General Assembly, Tuesday, Sept. 23, 2008, in New York.

Palin meets her 1st world leaders in New York

NEW YORK (AP)—Sarah Palin met her first world leaders Tuesday. It was a tightly controlled crash course on foreign policy for the Republican vice presidential candidate, the mayor-turned-governor who has been outside North America just once.

Palin sat down with Afghan President Hamid Karzai and Colombian President Alvaro Uribe. The conversations were private, the pictures public, meant to build her resume for voters concerned about her lack of experience in world affairs.

"I found her quite a capable woman," Karzai said later. "She asked the right questions on Afghanistan."

The self-described "hockey mom" also asked former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger for insights on Georgia, Russia, China and Iran, and she'll see more leaders Wednesday on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly meetings.

It was shuttle diplomacy, New York-style. At several points, Palin's motorcade got stuck in traffic and New Yorkers, unimpressed with the flashing lights, sirens and police officers in her group, simply walked between the vehicles to get across the street.

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, three hours behind Palin in seeing Karzai, found herself overshadowed for a day as she made her own rounds.

John McCain's presidential campaign has shielded the first-term Alaska governor for weeks from spontaneous questions from voters and reporters, and went to striking lengths Tuesday to maintain that distance as Palin made her diplomatic debut.

The GOP campaign, applying more restrictive rules on access than even President Bush uses in the White House, banned reporters from the start of the meetings, so as not to risk a question being asked of Palin.

McCain aides relented after news organizations objected and CNN, which was supplying TV footage to a variety of networks, decided to pull its TV crew from Palin's meeting with Karzai.

Man charged after a gun found in car near Barack Obama home

CHICAGO (AP)—A member of a prominent Chicago family faces a felony gun charge after being arrested Tuesday when he approached security barriers outside Barack Obama's home. The U.S. Secret Service insisted he never posed a threat to the Democratic presidential candidate.

Omhari Sengstacke, 31, of Chicago, was apparently intoxicated but not armed when he was arrested about 6:30 a.m. as he neared the barriers posted with no-access signs a block from the South Side home, said police spokesman Daniel O'Brien.

Police found a gun and a bulletproof vest in his car nearby.

Sengstacke did not utter any threats against Obama or make any threatening gestures before his arrest, and he never breached the outermost perimeter of multiple security layers, U.S. Secret Service spokesman Malcolm Wiley said.

Asked if Sengstacke may have wanted to hurt Obama, his brother, Robert Sengstacke, told The Associated Press, "I seriously doubt that."

In a statement issued Tuesday night, the Sengstacke family said they have "passionate support" for Obama and that Sengstacke "had no intent to harm Obama nor his family."

The fact that Sengstacke did not have the firearm with him at the time of his arrest "is proof that he had no ill intent toward the presidential candidate," the family said.

There was no telephone listing for an Omhari Sengstacke in Chicago.

Probe: Medicare paid billions in suspect claims

WASHINGTON (AP)—The government paid more than $1 billion in questionable Medicare claims for medical supplies that showed little relation to a patient's condition, including blood glucose strips for sexual impotence and special diabetic shoes for leg amputees, congressional investigators say.

Billions more in taxpayer dollars may have been wasted over the last decade because the government-run health program for the elderly and disabled paid out claims with blank or invalid diagnosis codes, such as a "?" or "zzzzz." Medicare officials say even smiley-face icons could have been accepted.

The report by Republicans on the Senate Homeland Security investigations subcommittee, obtained by The Associated Press, is the latest to detail lax oversight in the $400 billion program that has been cited by government auditors as a high-risk for fraud and waste for nearly 20 years.

The panel's review of millions of claims submitted by sellers of wheelchairs, drugs and other medical supplies on behalf of Medicare patients from 2001 to 2006 found at least $1 billion in which the listed diagnosis code appeared to have little, if any, connection to the reimbursed medical item.

ACROSS THE NATION

Democrats to let offshore drilling ban expire

WASHINGTON (AP)—Democrats have decided to allow a quarter-century ban on drilling for oil off the Atlantic and Pacific coasts to expire next week, conceding defeat in a months-long battle with the White House and Republicans set off by $4 a gallon gasoline prices this summer. House Appropriations Committee Chairman David Obey, D-Wis., told reporters Tuesday that a provision continuing the moratorium will be dropped this year from a stopgap spending bill to keep the government running after Congress recesses for the election. Republicans have made lifting the ban a key campaign issue after gasoline prices spiked this summer and public opinion turned in favor of more drilling. President Bush lifted an executive ban on offshore drilling in July. "If true, this capitulation by Democrats following months of Republican pressure is a big victory for Americans struggling with record gasoline prices," said House GOP leader John Boehner of Ohio.

Ga. cop killer gets last-minute execution reprieve

JACKSON, Ga. (AP)—The U.S. Supreme Court gave a reprieve to a Georgia inmate less than two hours before his scheduled execution Tuesday for the 1989 slaying of an off-duty police officer. Family and advocates of 39-year-old Troy Davis have long urged he deserves a new trial as seven of the nine witnesses who helped put him on death row have recanted their testimony. His supporters erupted into cheers and tears when the stay was announced at about 5:20 p.m. EDT. "This is not over yet," said Davis, who sounded upbeat and optimistic speaking to the crowd by phone. "This is the beginning of my blessing."

Pa. mom admits helping son build weapons cache

NORRISTOWN, Pa. (AP)—A woman admitted she helped her troubled, bullied 14-year-old son build a weapons cache by buying a rifle and gunpowder, but investigators still don't know if she was aware her son was planning a deadly school attack. Michele Cossey, 46, pleaded guilty Tuesday in Montgomery County Court to one count of child endangerment. She admitted that she gave her son access to a rifle with a laser scope and gunpowder, which investigators said he was using to build grenades. Prosecutors said her son, Dillon, came to idolize the Columbine High School shooters and was planning an attack last year on Plymouth Whitemarsh High School, which some former schoolmates attended. Cossey, bullied over his weight, had left public school in seventh grade and was being home-schooled. Over time, violent Internet sites fueled his revenge fantasies, his defense lawyer said after his juvenile court plea. Montgomery County Assistant District Attorney Christopher Parisi said he thought purchasing the weapons was "an attempt to boost his self-esteem, and in some way help the child, as misplaced as those thoughts may have been."

Asia

China's milk scandal bares government shortcomings

BEIJING (AP)—The note posted in July on the Web site of China's food safety inspection agency came from a doctor: There had been a sudden rise in infants turning up at his hospital with kidney stones after drinking the same brand of formula.

The warning, which urged an investigation, went unheeded. In the two weeks since China began piecemeal reporting about contamination of the milk supply, a picture has emerged of official indifference, greed and government dysfunction.

Among the startling details: the practice of adulterating milk was widely known in the industry, and one dairy knew since late last year that its formula was sickening children.

The revelations have dismayed a broad segment of the public—parents—who feel the government has breached their trust. Tens of thousands of children have sought medical care, nearly 13,000 have been hospitalized and four infants have died.

"I'm just disappointed because the government should have done more to protect its citizens," said Liao Yanfang, a migrant worker whose 1-year-old son was found to have kidney stones Tuesday at Beijing Children's Hospital. Since birth, her only child had been drinking infant formula made by the company at the center of the scandal, Sanlu Group Co., she said.

"I fed my baby powdered milk because ads said it was more nutritious than breast milk. We trusted that the government would provide adequate tests to ensure food quality," she said.

In the past two weeks, Beijing has recalled a broad array of milk products - all tainted by the industrial chemical melamine - and arrested Sanlu's chairwoman and several suppliers. It has dismissed officials and offered free medical care to the afflicted. "Nothing like this will ever happen again," Premier Wen Jiabao pledged.

But questions remain about why food and health inspectors ignored growing signs of trouble in the milk supply and when the communist leadership knew about it. Galling to many Chinese is the suspicion that high-level pressures for a successful Beijing Olympics added momentum for a cover-up.

Japan ruling party leader elected prime minister

TOKYO (AP)—Ruling party leader Taro Aso was elected Japan's next prime minister Wednesday in the lower house of parliament, ensuring that the outspoken conservative would take power later in the day.

Aso, who was chosen president of the long-ruling Liberal Democratic Party on Monday, had already begun piecing together a Cabinet expected to include a fellow outspoken hawk as finance chief.

The opposition-controlled upper house voted for Ichiro Ozawa, head of the Democratic Party of Japan, as prime minister. But the more powerful lower chamber was expected to override that ballot within hours in favor of Aso.

The right-leaning former foreign minister will confront a country wracked by political divisions and concerns over the economy, which has stalled in recent months amid the ballooning financial crisis in the United States.

"If you look at the current period, it's not a stable one," he told reporters. "These are turbulent times with the financial situation and everything else."

The vote on Wednesday reflected that turbulence.

The first task for Aso, 68, who takes over after Yasuo Fukuda's rocky single year in office, will be to put together a Cabinet capable enough to raise public support ahead of lower house elections that could come before the end of the year.

The initial choices, however, included many of the ruling party operatives who have circulated through previous Cabinets.

Shoichi Nakagawa, a former economic minister considered to be in the right-wing of the LDP, was seen as the leading candidate to become the new minister of finance.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Arroyo says peace talks with separatist group dependent on security

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—Philippines President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo says her country will restart peace talks with a Muslim separatist group once the southern island of Mindanao is secure and "responsible elements" of the group regain control. Arroyo told world leaders gathered Tuesday at the United Nations General Assembly's annual meeting that progress in talks with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front has been hurt by the group's violent members. She says her government is committed to the peace process. Philippines officials have said they will seek U.N. anti-terrorism sanctions against 12 commanders from the group. The rebels say government troops have conducted summary killings during their decades-long struggle for a Muslim homeland.

Pakistanis say suspected US drone shot down

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP)—Pakistani soldiers and tribesman shot down a suspected U.S. military drone close to the Afghan border Tuesday night, three intelligence officials said. If verified, it apparently would be the first time a pilotless aircraft was brought down over Pakistan and likely would add to tensions between Washington and Islamabad over recent American cross-border incursions into the country's lawless tribal regions. The three officials said the aircraft was hit at the village of Jalal Khel in South Waziristan after circling the area for several hours. Wreckage was strewn on the ground, they said, speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to brief the media. The United States challenged the account. "We're not aware of any drones being down," said a senior U.S. official, who speaking on condition of anonymity because of the diplomatic sensitivity of disputing a U.S. ally in the war against terrorist groups.

Prominent political prisoner freed in Myanmar

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—Myanmar's longest-serving political prisoner was among more than 9,000 inmates freed Tuesday, days before the first anniversary of the junta's deadly crackdown on anti-government protests led by Buddhist monks. Win Tin, a journalist-turned-activist and aide to pro-democracy opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi, was held for 19 years. He was one of at least seven political prisoners released, Amnesty International said. The rights group said there are an estimated 2,100 political prisoners in Myanmar, which has been under military rule for 46 years and is one of the world's poorest and most authoritarian nations. A longtime journalist and poet, while in prison Win Tin would write poems on the walls of his cell with ink made of brick powder and water, according to supporters who visited him. He said he would keep wearing his prison blues as a sign of protest against the military rulers, and he vowed to keep pressing for more freedom.

World

AP

This is an image taken from the website of Matti Juhani Saari on Tuesday Sept. 23, 2008. Saari whose You Tube postings prompted police to bring him in for questioning opened fire Tuesday Sept. 23, 2008, at his trade school in western Finland, killing 10 people before shooting himself in the head.

Finnish gunman who made Web videos kills 10, self

KAUHAJOKI, Finland (AP)—A chilling YouTube video with a young man firing a pistol and warning "You will die next" caught the eye of police, who questioned him but then let him go, saying they didn't have enough evidence to take away his weapon.

On Tuesday, he walked into a vocational college, the School of Hospitality, and opened fire, killing 10 people and burning their bodies with firebombs before shooting himself fatally in the head. At least two other people were wounded.

The rampage bore eerie similarities to another school massacre in Finland last year in which an 18-year-old gunman killed eight people and himself. Both gunmen posted violent clips on YouTube prior to the shootings, both were fascinated by the 1999 Columbine school shootings in Colorado, both attacked their own schools and both died after shooting themselves in the head.

The latest shooting raised questions about whether police could have stopped the bloodshed, and although there was little initial debate about gun control, Prime Minister Matti Vanhanen said the government may consider restrictions on privately held semiautomatic weapons.

There are roughly 1.6 million firearms in private hands in Finland, a nation with deep-rooted traditions of hunting in the sub-Arctic wilderness. The country's 650,000 licensed gun owners—about 13 percent of the population of 5.2 million—include hunters, target shooters and gun collectors, and Finland ranks in the top five in civilian gun ownership per capita along with the United States, Yemen, Iraq and Switzerland.

Finnish media identified the gunman as Matti Juhani Saari, a 22-year-old student at the school, which offers courses in catering, tourism, nursing and home economics. Police declined to identify him, saying he did not have a previous criminal record.

Witnesses said panic erupted as the masked gunman, dressed in black and carrying a large bag, entered the school just before 11 a.m., and started firing in a classroom where students were taking an exam.

Iran's Ahmadinejad: US 'empire' nears collapse

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—Iran's president addressed the U.N. General Assembly Tuesday declaring that "the American empire" is nearing collapse and should end its military involvement in other countries.

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said terrorism is spreading quickly in Afghanistan while "the occupiers" are still in Iraq nearly six years after Saddam Hussein was ousted from power in Iraq.

"American empire in the world is reaching the end of its road, and its next rulers must limit their interference to their own borders," Ahmadinejad said.

He accused the U.S. of starting wars in Iraq and Afghanistan to win votes in elections and blamed a "few bullying powers" for trying to undermine Iran's nuclear program.

Ahmadinejad's hardline rhetoric came as no surprise and offered little in the way of compromise at the U.N., where he faces a new round of sanctions if no agreement is reached on limiting Iran's nuclear capabilities.

While he reiterated that the country's nuclear program is purely peaceful, the U.S. and others fear it is aimed at producing enriched uranium to make nuclear weapons.

Iran already is under three sets of sanctions by the U.N. Security Council for refusing to suspend uranium enrichment. Washington and its Western allies are pushing for quick passage of a fourth set of sanctions to underline the international community's resolve, but are likely to face opposition from Russia.

9/11 mastermind takes lead role in Gitmo courtroom

GUANTANAMO BAY NAVAL BASE, Cuba (AP)—Professed Sept. 11 mastermind Khalid Sheikh Mohammed took center stage in a military court Tuesday as he questioned the judge's impartiality and acted as the de facto spokesman for his four co-defendants.

Mohammed, the highest-profile al-Qaida figure in U.S. custody, boasted at a 2007 closed hearing that he was responsible for 31 terrorist plots and the Sept. 11 attacks "from A to Z" - claims that U.S. officials said were exaggerated.

Mohammed's interactions with the judge and his co-defendants on Tuesday underscored his taste for the limelight and sense of authority. The former al-Qaida No. 3 has led his co-defendants in raising challenges to the court and even assisted in getting a boycotting co-defendant to leave his cell.

Glaring at Judge Ralph Kohlmann from beneath bushy eyebrows and a black turban, Mohammed pressed the Marine colonel to explain how he could provide a fair trial as a member of the U.S. Armed Forces that are at war with al-Qaida.

"How can you, as an officer of the U.S. Marine Corps, stand over me in judgment?" Mohammed, who is acting as his own lawyer, asked in English. "How can you be unbiased, given your position?"

Environment

We all live in a watershed

A watershed is an area of land where the water drains to a common point. Here on Saipan, we have 11 major watersheds, all of which eventually drain to the sea.

Use the adjacent map to determine what watershed you live in!

Drop by drop, water is channeled into soils, creeks, streams, groundwater, and eventually to the ocean.

The water that is percolated underground replenishes aquifers and is then pumped into our homes for our daily needs like bathing, washing, etc.

What we do on the land affects water quality for all residents on the island for both our drinking water and our groundwater.

CNMI Organization for Conservation Outreach

Threats to Our Watersheds

Our watersheds are subject to severe erosion during rain storms and typhoons. This intense rainfall damages unpaved roads, making them impassable and dangerous, and at the same time, deposits sediment on adjacent reefs.

Upland burning and clearing for the purposes of development, farming, and hunting also causes increased levels of sediments in the water. These sediments reduce the quality of water for fish and coral reefs.

Uncontrolled storm water runoff (water that is not infiltrated into the ground) drains off roads, driveways and parking lots, and negatively impacts our water resources. When water runs off these types of impervious surfaces, it picks up pollutants along the way and takes them all the way to the ocean.

Common storm water pollutants include:

- Oil and grease from automobile and kitchen wastes
- Sediment from rural roads, construction sites, and eroding stream banks
- Nitrogen and phosphorus from fertilizer
- Bacteria from pet waste and sewer overflows and illicit connections
- Metals (lead, nickel, copper) from automobiles
- Pesticides from lawns

Protecting our Watersheds

Schools, civic organizations, individuals can help to protect our watersheds, thereby helping to protect our drinking water and ocean resources for fish and coral reefs.

We can all help by:

1) Maintaining vegetation. Trees and plants slow down runoff and create opportunities for water to infiltrate soils which reduces erosion, stores water for gradual re-release, and helps control flooding.

2) Properly use fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides. Excessive use of these chemicals can enter into the groundwater or ocean, which then stimulates algae growth which blocks sunlight and prevents an adequate supply of oxygen to fish in the ocean. Watch the weather forecast and avoid applying fertilizers prior to a rain event. Your money and the fertilizer will go down the drain.

3) Redirecting down spouts to water catchments. The water collected can be used for lawn or garden watering, car washing and even showers and toilets.

4) Ensuring proper waste disposal. Locate dumpsters away from drain inlets and ensure each bin is securely covered. Hazardous waste, oil and grease should never be thrown in a garbage bin.

In the few weeks, we will highlight a specific watershed in the CNMI. ***(CoCo)***

Help combat climate change: Take the Right Route Oct. 10

Take the "Right Route" on Oct. 10 by walking, running, biking, or carpooling to work or school in order to reduce your carbon footprint.

Your carbon footprint is the direct effect that your actions and lifestyle have on the environment in terms of CO2 emissions. Probably the biggest contributors to your personal "footprint" are your travel needs, and your electricity demands. These actions contribute to accelerating global warming and climate change.

Warming the atmosphere—the greenhouse effect

Heat from the sun passes through the atmosphere and warms the surface of the Earth. Some of this heat is reflected back into outer space through the atmosphere and some is retained, just like in a greenhouse. It is this balance of absorption and reflection—known as the greenhouse effect—that has kept the Earth's temperature stable for eons. Over billions of years the Earth has developed a system that can absorb and recycle the gases produced by natural process like plant and animal respiration, volcanic eruptions and forest fires.

As oil and coal are burned the carbon they contain combines with oxygen in the air to give off heat and produce carbon dioxide, and other gases. As population increases and development spreads, more and more energy is being used and ever-increasing volumes of carbon dioxide are being generated. Since 1750, when written records were first kept, the global concentration of carbon dioxide has increased by about 30 percent. Emissions of methane and nitrous oxide, from fuel consumption, converting forest to farmland, cultivation and fertilization of soils, production of ruminant livestock and management of livestock manure, have increased by roughly 131 percent and 17 percent in 250 years. However, carbon dioxide is the main greenhouse gas.

The amounts of greenhouse gases that are being produced have exceeded the Earth's ability to absorb them and they are accumulating in the atmosphere. As they build up they trap more and more heat from the sun inside the atmosphere. It is generally accepted that this build up is one of the primary causes of an increase in the average temperature of the Earth, which will eventually cause significant changes in the Earth's climate.

Climate change

One of the greatest challenges to sustainable development in the 21st century is climate change. Climate change is a change in the "average weather" that a region experiences. By increasing the amount of heat-trapping gases released, humankind has enhanced the warming capability of the natural greenhouse effect. It is the human-induced enhanced greenhouse effect that causes environmental concern.

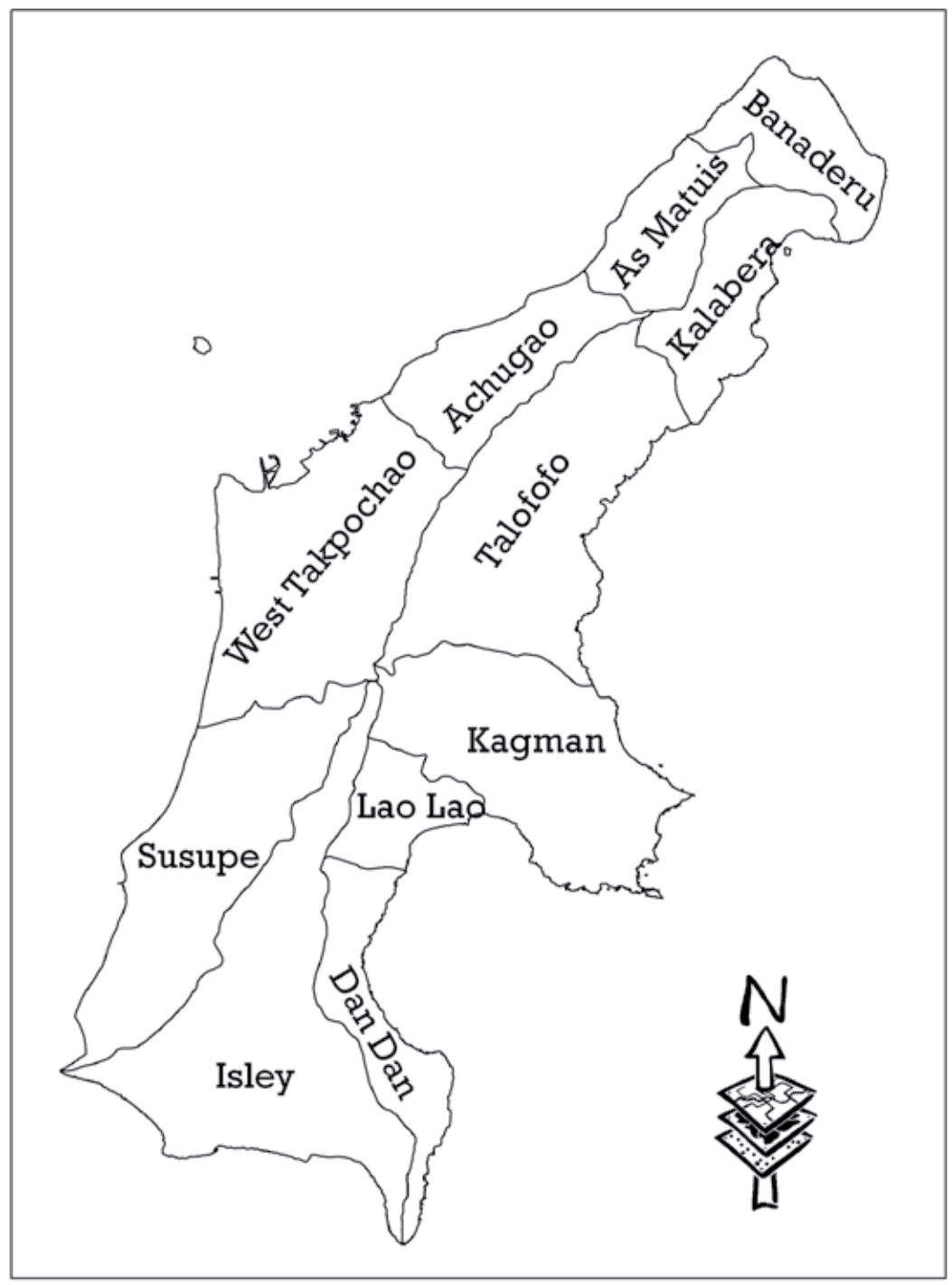
The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change projects that unless drastic action is taken, global temperatures will continue to rise and extreme events will become more frequent and intense. Most governments in the world are making efforts to reduce the production of greenhouse gases, even though fossil fuels will remain the mainstay of energy production well into the 21st century and agriculture must produce more and more food. Governments are also looking for ways to remove the excess carbon dioxide that is already in the atmosphere, but the amounts are so huge this may not be practical. This has serious implications for the fragile and vulnerable islands of the Pacific, already witnessing the negative impacts of climate change as sea levels rise.

The danger in the Pacific

Many Pacific islands are extremely vulnerable to climate change, climate variability, and sea level rise and will be among the first to suffer the impacts of climate change and among the first to be forced to adapt or abandon or relocate from their environment. The islands are low lying or have coastal features and characteristics that make them particularly vulnerable to climate change, variability and sea level change. In addition to significant coastal impacts climate change will affect biodiversity, soils and the water supplies of small islands. Most small island states will find it extremely difficult to adapt to these changing conditions. The impacts will be felt for many generations because of the small island states' low adaptive capacity, high sensitivity to external shocks and high vulnerability to natural disasters.

Failure to adapt to climate change now could lead to high social and economic costs in the future. For the low lying atolls, the economic disruption could be catastrophic, even to the extent of requiring population relocation into other islands or increasing the number of people emigrating from the islands. Some areas of coral reefs, may be so enfeebled by overfishing that they may not be able to recover from bleaching events in the future. Public pressure is mounting for action on adaptation. There is growing community and government concern about the need to reduce the islands' vulnerability and manage the risks posed by extreme events and long-term change.

To sign up for the Take the Right Route on Oct. 10, contact Lauren Sanchez or Noberto Mendiola at the CNMI Energy Office at 664-4480/1 or energy@pticom.com.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Where do you live? Locate your home or business on the map. Let us all control pollution in our watersheds.

We want your fish photos!

Do you have great photos of the CNMI's spectacular fish? Would you like them to be featured in the 2009 Fish of the CNMI Calendar? If so please submit your digital photo to: pridecnmi@gmail.com.

Be sure to include your name, the fish photographed, and where the photo was taken.

Selected photographs will be featured in the calendar and recognition will be given to photographers.

We look forward to seeing your contributions!

Please contact Brooke Nevitt, Education and Outreach Coordinator, Coastal Resources Management Office 664-8320 for general information about the fish calendar. ***(CoCo)***

Island Snapshots

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

NEW APPOINTEES

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial administers the oath of office for Manual Sablan during the Cabinet meeting on Monday at the Governor's Office conference room. Sablan has been appointed as the newest member of the Commonwealth Development Authority board. He was confirmed by the Senate last week.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial administers the oath of office for Cecilia Celes, who is now the Secretary for the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs. The swearing in was held during the Cabinet meeting on Monday at the Governor's Office conference room. Celes was confirmed by the Senate last week.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial administers the oath of office for new Cabinet member Michael Ada, who has been named the Secretary for the Department of Commerce. The swearing in ceremony was held during the Cabinet meeting on Monday at the Governor's Office conference room. Ada was confirmed by the Senate last week.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial administers the oath of office for NMC Regent Margarita Praeter during the Cabinet meeting held Monday at the Office of the Governor's conference room. Praeter was confirmed by the Senate last week.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial administers the oath of office for the newest member of the NMI Retirement Fund board of trustees, Sixto Igisomar, during the Cabinet meeting held Monday at the Office of the Governor's conference room. Igisomar was confirmed by the Senate last week.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

INOS SWEARING-IN

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial administers the oath of office for associate Judge Perry B. Inos on Monday at the Governor's Conference Room. Inos was confirmed to the position by the Senate last week.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

INOS SWEARING-IN

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial poses with members of the Inos family after swearing in new associate Judge Perry B. Inos on Monday at the Governor's Conference Room. Inos was confirmed to the position by the Senate last week.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

FOREIGN MEDIA

Members of the Japanese media wait at the entrance of the CNMI Supreme Court for the start of the hearing for Kazuyoshi Miura's appeal against his extradition to California.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Newly sworn-in associate Judge Perry B. Inos speaks after the swearing in ceremony held Monday at the Governor's Conference Room. Beside him is Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, who administered Inos' oath of office. Inos was confirmed to the position by the Senate last week.

Life & Style

A new twist for 'America's Next Top Model'

AP

In this photo released by The CW, American's Next Top Model contender Isis King is photographed for the show in Los Angeles, Ca. on May 15, 2008.

By GILLIAN GAYNAIR
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

As a little boy in the Washington suburbs, Darrell Walls liked to pretend to be Lil' Kim or a Pink Power Ranger.

He felt different—like a girl mistakenly born a boy.

But Walls eventually embraced that difference and today is living true, as Isis King. Now 22, King is the first transgender contestant on "America's Next Top Model," the CW Television Network reality show hosted by supermodel Tyra Banks.

"I'm just trying to be myself," King said during a telephone interview last week. "If I inspire people, that's a wonderful thing—whether you're trans or not."

While the number of transgender representations on television remains small, activists say in recent years they have seen a movement away from stereotypical roles such as transgender sex workers or villains. Now, the roles are not as marginalized—and some are even portrayed by transgender actors.

Last year, Candis Cayne became the first transgender actress to have a recurring role on ABC's "Dirty Sexy Money." She plays Carmelita, the transgender mistress of Patrick Darling, a New York attorney general played by actor William Baldwin.

And from 2003 to 2006, transgender actress Alexandra Billings guest-starred on three TV shows, including ABC's "Grey's Anatomy." Billings played a married transgender woman about to have sex reassignment surgery. However, as doctors prepare her for surgery, they discover she has breast cancer, and she's told she must stop her female hormone therapy to treat the disease.

"When audiences see real gay and transgender people facing many of the same ups and downs as everybody else, it helps to change perceptions and break down stereotypes," Neil G. Giuliano, president of the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, said in an e-mail. "The casting of Isis on such a popular show offers a groundbreaking opportunity for a community that is historically underrepresented on television.".

Audiences are seeing not only how the very slender, long-legged King fares on photo shoots and before judges, but also behind-the-scenes comments from some of her fellow contestants, including one who called her a man and another who made a "drag queen" reference.

Viewers are also getting glimpses of how she's transitioning from man to woman. A recent episode, for example, shows her injecting female hormones. King began the treatments last year and wants to have the expensive surgery—not undertaken by all transgender people—by her 25th birthday.

"I don't believe the surgery will make me any more of a woman," said King, who has been living as a woman since early last year. "I've always been that woman. But ... it's something I feel will complete me."

Growing up in several communities in Prince George's County, Md., King said she had a "pretty normal childhood." She attended church. She hung out at malls her senior year.

After high school, King attended the Art Institute of Philadelphia, where she earned an associate's degree in fashion design. While in college, she confided in some female friends that she wanted to dress like a woman.

Just before her 21st birthday in 2006, she did—it was her own creation, a pencil skirt with an off-the-shoulder black blouse. And she decided to move to New York to pursue a fashion career and formally transition into living as a woman. "Mentally, I was ready, and that was the most powerful thing," King said.

She told her mother—who King describes as her best friend—of her plans. "She wasn't for it," King said. "But I was already doing it."

Once in New York, she legally changed her name, selecting "King" to honor her mother's side of the family. She chose Isis as her first name, after the powerful Egyptian goddess.

But her mother didn't take to it. She instead called her "D," for Darrell.

In New York, King had also had run into obstacles. The $4,500 she had saved to move to the city had dried up, and she needed help getting back on her feet. She moved into an apartment provided by The Ali Forney Center, an organization that serves homeless gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender youth.

"Technically, I was homeless," King said. "I just wasn't living literally on the street."

In late 2007, America's Next Top Model filmed an episode in New York to raise awareness about homeless youth. The contestants modeled in street clothes and a handful of homeless youth donned couture, serving as extras in the shoot.

King was one of them.

When Banks later scrutinized models' photos for judging, "she kept on noticing Isis," executive producer Ken Mok said. "And she said, 'Who is that girl?'"

King clearly knew how to pose, understood fashion and was passionate, he said.

Earlier this year, Top Model found King and invited her to audition for the new season.

"I think the one message we always try to get out there, that Tyra always expresses, is you want to widen the spectrum of what is considered beautiful," Mok said.

In Celebration of Her New Life

Margarita Manahane Benavente Seman

Affectionately known as "Nan Badig"

Born on February 3, 1934
Was called to her eternal rest by our Dear Lord on Monday, September 22, 2008

IN HER NEW LIFE, SHE NOW JOINS HER:
HUSBAND: *Jose Igibor (Maguines) Seman*
PARENTS: *Guillermo Villagomez Benavente & Carmen Manahane Benavente.*
Son: *Joseph B. Seman* **Great Grandson:** *Angelo Christian Rasa Aichi*

SISTER / BROTHERS & SPOUSES:
Antonio M. & Victoria M. Benavente / Fernando M. & Faustina S. Benavente / Ana B. & Felipe C. Aldan / Ignacio M. & Isabel A. Benavente / Roman M. & Dolores T. Benavente / Rudy Sedmik.

PARENTS-IN-LAWS:
Vincente Parong & Jacoba Igibor Maguines Seman

SISTERS / BROTHERS-IN-LAWS & SPOUSES:
Ramona S. Chong / Felipe M. & Maria T. Seman / Joaquin M. & Maria C. Seman / Juan M. & Esperenza T. Seman / Odorico M. Seman / Vicente M. Seman / Lorenzo LG. Iriarte

HER MEMORY WILL LIVE IN THE HEARTS OF HER:

SONS/DAUGHTERS & FAMILIES:
Nicolas *& Dolly Muna (Michelle, Elaine/Oscar, Jason, Nick Jr., Raymond & Nicole)*
Catalino *& Lucy Sanchez (Catherine, Craig/Nasia)*
Oscar C. & ***Patricia S****. Rasa (Diego/Jennifer, Vania, Oscar II, Margaret/Lino)*
Mario & ***Vivian S****. Taitano (Valerie)*
Benjamin B*. & Dorothy T. Seman (Benjamin Jr., Darriette & Deeshya)*
Richard B. *& Lorraine M . Seman (Vinycia/Jeff, Ricky, John, Anthony & Lorisha)*
Joseph Zachary B. Seman

REARED CHILDREN:
Thelma B*. Inos & Rufin S. Inos (Rozanne, Rufin Jr. & Vincent)*
James Benavente

SISTERS / BROTHERS-IN-LAWS:
Rosa B*. & Takesi Royal*
Maria B*. Sedmik*
Bernadita B*. & Charles Helstrom*

Sister-In-Law: *Lucia Seman Iriarte*
Brother-In-Law: *Dr. Jose L. Chong*
Caregiver: *Rose Capinpin*

She will also be missed by numerous Grand Children, Great Grand Children, Nieces, Nephews, Relatives and Friends.

Daily Mass is being offered at 6:00 a.m. at Our Lady Of Mount Carmel Cathedral and at 6:00 p.m. at St. Jude Church except on Saturday at 7:00 a.m. & Sunday at 8:00am. Rosary is being prayed at 7:00 p.m. at our Lady of Mount Carmel Cathedral.

On Tuesday, September 30, 2008, *her remains will be escorted from Borja Funeral Home in San Jose to Our Lady of Mount Carmel Cathedral at 7:30 a.m. followed by Responso & Holy Rosary. Mass of Christian Burial will be at 11:00 a.m. followed by burial at Mt. Carmel Cemetary.*

Your Thoughts and Prayers are greatly appreciated

From the Family

Nicole Kidman credits fertile water with pregnancy

SYDNEY, Australia (AP)—Oscar-winning actress Nicole Kidman said swimming in Australian Outback "fertility waters" during production of her latest film may have contributed to her unexpected pregnancy over the past year.

The 41-year-old Aussie, who gave birth to daughter Sunday Rose in July, said she and six other women who swam in the waters of a small Outback town during production of the epic romance "Australia" fell pregnant.

"I never thought that I would get pregnant and give birth to a child, but it happened on this movie," Kidman told The Australian Women's Weekly in an exclusive interview for the magazine's 75th anniversary edition, released Wednesday.

"Seven babies were conceived out of this film and only one was a boy. There is something up there in the Kununurra water because we all went swimming in the waterfalls, so we can call it the fertility waters now."

"Australia," directed by Baz Luhrmann, was filmed in Kununurra, a small town in far northern Western Australia state. The film, which follows the story of a noblewoman on a cattle drive in Australia during World War II, is due for release in November.

"I'm so lucky I'm so tall, so I carried small and also, I have to say, I had a birth that I was blessed with, a labor that was very good and a baby that was very good to me in that regard," said Kidman, who is married to country music crooner Keith Urban and has two adopted children with ex-husband Tom Cruise.

"To be given this again is a beautiful thing. To have raised Bella and Connor since I was 25 and now to be able to do it again at 41 ... wow!"

AP

In this Jan. 21, 2008 file photo, Nicole Kidman and her husband Keith Urban are seen in the stands at the Australian Open tennis tournament in Melbourne, Australia.

I can't go on; I will go on: Baldwin promotes book

NEW YORK (AP)—Alec Baldwin, at a bookstore event he says he didn't want to attend, gave a fired up talk Tuesday night about a book he says he didn't want to write.

A standing room only crowd of more than 100, plus about 20 protesters outside, came to a Barnes & Noble in Manhattan, where the award-winning actor discussed "A Promise to Ourselves," a new memoir about his devastating divorce and child custody battle.

"I wish I weren't here. I wish I weren't doing this," Baldwin, 50, said at the beginning of a 20-minute discourse on family law and feminism, with references to civil rights, the Wall Street crisis, Beverly Hills lawyers and the notorious voicemail he left in 2007 with his then-11-year-old daughter, Ireland.

Wearing a dark blue blazer, a light blue shirt and no tie, his hair grayer and spikier than it usually appears in public, Baldwin spoke emotionally, compulsively, promising "This is the last thing I'll say" often enough that he finally joked, "I know, I said this before."

His book tells of his split with actress Kim Basinger, and his estrangement from their daughter, brought about, he says, by a court system that effectively drains both soul and pocketbook.

Baldwin's talk was held near the restaurant from which, Baldwin writes in his book, he slipped away last year during dinner and phoned his daughter. Failing, as he had for days, to reach her, Baldwin "snapped" and exploded, calling Ireland a "rude, thoughtless little pig." After the tape was leaked to the media, his private tantrum turned into a public fiasco that left Baldwin feeling suicidal for weeks.

His remorse remained Tuesday night, and so did his anger. "Who gained from that?" he asked of the tape's public airing. The entire incident, he said, was designed to "humiliate people," to embarrass and to taunt.

Baldwin took no questions, but he did respond to members of the Voices of Women Organizing Project who marched and chanted on the Broadway corner in front of the store. They were opposing Baldwin's defense of Parental Alienation Syndrome (PAS), a controversial theory about how one parent, often the father, is effectively demonized by the other parent, with the child's help.

"It's junk science, and has not been validated or supported," said Kalima DeSuze, lead organizer of the women's group, which advocates for victims of domestic violence.

Inside, Baldwin acknowledged the protesters, agreed with most of their arguments, but said they failed to explain "how they would like to stop women who falsely accuse men." He then offered a brief history of the feminist movement, saying nothing would have been achieved without "the support of men, open-minded men," and that their help was needed now.

Baldwin, who on Sunday won a best supporting actor Emmy for "30 Rock," writes in his book of meeting Basinger in 1990 and being impressed by her determination to succeed on work and talent alone. "It was this quality, more than any other, that most attracted me to her," he recalls.

They were married in 1993, but their relationship never recovered from Basinger's own courtroom horror - a breach of contract lawsuit after she left the production of "Boxing Helena" that shattered her financially and emotionally. Ireland was born in 1996 but the couple divorced in 2001.

"Things," Baldwin wrote, "began to change rapidly."

On Tuesday, fans began lining up hours before his reading and many were turned away. The audience was male and female, young and old, with a few police by the doors and in the back, in the corner, fellow actor Richard Dreyfuss.

"I liked it," he said after Baldwin's talk. "What's not to like?"

DEATH & FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

In Loving Memory of

Juan Celis Cabrera

November 25, 1954-September 18, 2008

In his new life, he now joins his:
Parents: †Leonardo Camacho Cabrera, †Ignacia Celis Cabrera.
Brother: †Jose C. Cabrera
Sister: †Ana C. Cabrera
Brother-in-law: †Glenn D. Butterist

His memories will forever live in the hearts of his family, children, and grand children:
Josephine Camacho
Rodney C. Cabrera/Naomi M. Nishimura & Children (Dayna Jeanne & Deidre Lauren)
Rowena C. Cabrera/Robert Dela Cruz & Children (Emmanuel, Chrismae, Alvin, Zyra, Kiana & Ryan)
Lora Jean C. Cabrera & Children (Lynnae, Leonard, Nathan)
Juan C. Cabrera, Jr./Jadine S. Ada
Ignatia C. Cabrera/ Frank Hocog & Daughter (Junei)

Sisters, Brothers & In-laws:
Eugenia C./ Calistro S. Cepeda & Family
Margarita C./ Pedro W. Torres & Family
Victorina C./ Butteris & Family
Remedio C./ Vicente P. Diaz & Family
Diana C./ Francisco W. Torres
Dolores C./ Juan S. Camacho & Family
Bernadita C./ Mark I. Palacios & Family
Pedro C. Cabrera/Emerina Laguisma & Family
Jesus Teregeyo (Namba)

Mother In-Law: Rita R. Camacho
Juan R./Diana Camacho & Family
James R./Melanie Camacho & Family
Andy R./Melissa Camacho & Children
Zina R./David Nekaifes & Children
Anthony R./Jennifer Camacho & Children

Father In-Law: Angel Dela Cruz
Carmen Atalig

Joseph C./Melinda Atalig & Family
Cynthia C./Francisco Tudela & Family
Richard C./Jessa Atalig & Children
Angie C. Atalig & Family

Mass of Intention is being celebrated each evening at 6:00 PM at Nuestra De Soledad Church, Kagman, followed by Holy Rosary. On Friday, September 26, his remains will be taken from Nuestra Señora dela Paz at 7:30 AM to Nuestra Señora De Soledad Kagman. Responso Service will be at 8:30 AM followed by the Holy Rosary.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:30 AM followed by interment Service at Mt. Carmel Cemetery.

Please join us in prayers.

The Family

Jeffrey Ross kicked off 'Dancing with the Stars'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Jeffrey Ross didn't get a second chance to quick step on "Dancing with the Stars."

The comedian and his professional partner Edyta Sliwinska were the first couple eliminated Tuesday from the seventh season of ABC's dancing competition.

The pair received a score of 14 from the show's judges Monday following their cha cha cha routine. Ross was sent packing after that score was combined with viewers' votes.

The remaining celebrities include chef Rocco DiSpirito; NFL star Warren Sapp; TV personalities Brooke Burke and Kim Kardashian; singers Lance Bass and Toni Braxton; athletes Misty May-Treanor and Maurice Greene; and actors Cloris Leachman, Cody Linley, Susan Lucci and Ted McGinley. Another star will be eliminated Wednesday.

In this image released by ABC, comedian Jeffrey Ross is shown in Los Angeles.

AP

Clay Aiken comes out of the closet

NEW YORK (AP)—Clay Aiken is finally confirming what many people already knew: He's gay.

The cover of the latest People magazine shows Aiken holding his infant son, Parker Foster Aiken, with the headline: "Yes, I'm Gay." The cover also has the quote: "I cannot raise a child to lie or hide things."

Aiken

The magazine has an interview with Aiken and confirmed that he was on the cover but refused to release the article to The Associated Press until Wednesday.

The baby's mother is Aiken's friend and record producer Jaymes Foster.

Aiken, who gained fame as the runner-up on "American Idol" in 2003, rarely addressed the frequent rumors about his sexuality. In an interview with The Associated Press two years ago, he said: "I don't really feel like I have anybody to answer to but myself and God and the people I love."

The multiplatinum singer recently released the CD "On My Way Here" and made his Broadway debut this spring in "Monty Python's Spamalot."

Lindsay Lohan says she is dating Samantha Ronson

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Lindsay Lohan has confirmed what the world has guessed: She's been dating Samantha Ronson "a very long time."

The 22-year-old actress casually told the co-host of the syndicated radio program "Loveline" on Monday that she's been dating the 31-year-old DJ. The pair have appeared in public and been photographed together but have never publicly commented about the extent of their relationship.

"You guys, you and Samantha, have been going out for how long now?" DJ Ted Stryker asked. "Like two years, one year, five months, two months?"

"For a very long time," Lohan said after laughing.

Stryker interviewed Ronson while she took a break from DJing at TV Guide's Emmy afterparty Monday night in Los Angeles. Ronson had been discussing her friendship with DJ AM and Travis Barker, who are recovering from severe burns following a plane crash in South Carolina last weekend, before putting Lohan on the phone.

Lohan's publicist, Leslie Sloane-Zelnik, told The Associated Press on Monday that Lohan is not engaged to be married.

AP

In this Sept. 6, 2008 file photo, actress Lindsay Lohan and Samantha Ronson, left, attend the Charlotte Ronson 2009 Spring Collection in Bryant Park during Fashion Week in New York.

Ga. judge tells T.I. to pay more child support

ATLANTA (AP)—A judge on Tuesday ordered rapper T.I. to pay more child support to the mother of two of his children after she claimed he wasn't providing enough money.

Superior Court Judge Bensonetta Tipton Lane told the two-time Grammy winner, whose real name is Clifford Harris, to pay just over $3,000 a month to LaShon Dixon. He had been paying about $2,000 per month.

The judge also said the 27-year-old performer must continue to pay for the boys to attend private school, uninsured medical bills and expenses related to the children's extracurricular activities. Tipton Lane also awarded the couple on Tuesday joint custody of the boys, ages 7 and 8. Dixon, 28, was granted primary physical custody. The children previously spent about 40 percent of their time with the rapper.

Tyler Perry donates food for the hungry in Atlanta

ATLANTA (AP)—Tyler Perry may be a successful director, playwright and actor, but he knows what it's like to be hungry.

Perry, who grew up the poor son of a carpenter in New Orleans and was homeless for a time, has donated enough food to feed 1,000 families for two weeks in Atlanta, where he lives now.

He spent part of Tuesday morning unloading and packaging food at Hosea Feed the Hungry and the Homeless care center, where organizers say a tanking economy has brought more people seeking help.

"I've been out on the street, I know what it's about," said Perry, whose projects include "Tyler Perry's the Family That Preys."

"I couldn't imagine doing that with children looking at me for food," he said.

Perry, 39, stood side by side with volunteers and said he felt pulled to visit the center after hearing about it on the news.

"I had to do something," he said.

Judge says Sharon Stone's son will live with dad

AP

In this April 25, 2002 file photo, actress Sharon Stone, left, and her then husband, Phil Bronstein pose together before the San Francisco Film Society Awards in San Francisco.

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Actress Sharon Stone has lost another round of custody proceedings over her oldest son. A San Francisco judge denied her request for primary custody of 8-year-old Roan, who's been living with his father, newspaper executive Phil Bronstein. The couple divorced in 2004 after six years of marriage.

The judge ruled Sept. 12 that Bronstein's home is more stable and structured, reaffirming a 2007 court order that the executive vice president of the San Francisco Chronicle has permanent sole custody of Roan.

Stone retains visitation rights.

The judge also said the parents must consult with each other before enrolling their child in any tutoring activities, and that Stone's telephone number should be programmed into Roan's cell and home telephones.

Stone has two other sons, Laird and Quinn, whom she adopted on her own.

A call to Stone's lawyer was not immediately returned Tuesday.

New dad facing challenges can find help all around

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DearAbby

DEAR ABBY: My heart goes out to "New Father in North Carolina" (July 10), who was asked to baby-sit a 14-year-old boy and now has legal custody of him. A long time ago, a baby was abandoned and left in my care. I made the commitment and the sacrifices, and reaped rewards along the way. I'm proud of the fine person my daughter has become and the way she respects me. Please allow me to share some advice with "New Father" based on my experiences.

■ Ask people for help. Be open about the difficulties you encounter, while maintaining good humor. It will give others an opportunity to volunteer for particular things.

■ Live your values. My own father never failed to correct himself when he learned he was wrong. He never lied, cheated or took unfair advantage. I'm grateful for the examples he set.

■ Above all, listen. Don't shrug things off just because they might not loom large in your own mind. Find out why they matter to your son. He needs to know he'll be treated with respect even if he says something "stupid." Assure him that mistakes don't equal stupidity and that learning to correct mistakes sensibly is one of the most important lessons in life.

I hope these suggestions will be useful to "New Father." Although we have never met, this gentleman is lodged permanently in my heart.

PROUD FATHER IN LAS CRUCES

DEAR PROUD FATHER: How kind of you to share your insights. Many caring readers were also inspired to pass along helpful resources that should benefit "New Father." Read on:

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Please tell that man to call 2-1-1. This free service offers information and referrals, and they will be able to guide him to agencies that may help him obtain furniture, etc. The 2-1-1 service is available in about 70 percent of the United States. It's free and confidential. For more information, visit www.211.org.

CINDY IN JAMESTOWN, N.Y.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Freecycle (www.freecycle.org) is a great online group of people who give and take instead of throwing things out. If "New Father" signs up and sends an e-mail of items he needs, there's a good chance someone will respond to his request. Good luck!

J.C. IN NEWINGTON, CONN.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Please point "New Father" toward www.craigslist.org. People advertise and sell everything there. It's the world's largest garage sale. They also have a "free stuff" section. You'd be amazed at the things people give away—as long as someone can pick the items up.

IN OUR PRAYERS IN PHOENIX

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Please suggest that "New Father" visit his county's Smart Start office for parenting skills info. I'm a board member of this organization, which offers a wide range of services from which he can benefit. Also, he should ask about food stamps and child care subsidy at his local Department of Social Services. His social worker can probably guide him to sources of assistance in housing costs. And the local crisis center may be able to assist him with household needs.

CAROLYN IN CLINTON, N.C.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Many churches have outreach programs that offer services which can include counseling, as well as assistance with food, clothing and furniture. In addition, churches often have members who are doctors, social workers, repairmen, etc. who might be willing to donate their services. Bless "New Father" for what he is doing.

ALSO NEW PARENTS IN KENTUCKY

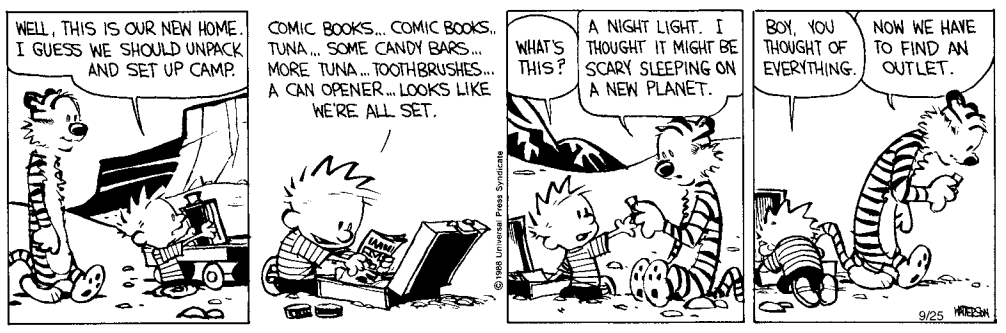
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $12 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


WELL, THIS IS OUR NEW HOME. I GUESS WE SHOULD UNPACK AND SET UP CAMP.
COMIC BOOKS... COMIC BOOKS.. TUNA... SOME CANDY BARS... MORE TUNA... TOOTHBRUSHES... A CAN OPENER... LOOKS LIKE WE'RE ALL SET.
WHAT'S THIS?
A NIGHT LIGHT. I THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE SCARY SLEEPING ON A NEW PLANET.
BOY, YOU THOUGHT OF EVERYTHING.
NOW WE HAVE TO FIND AN OUTLET.
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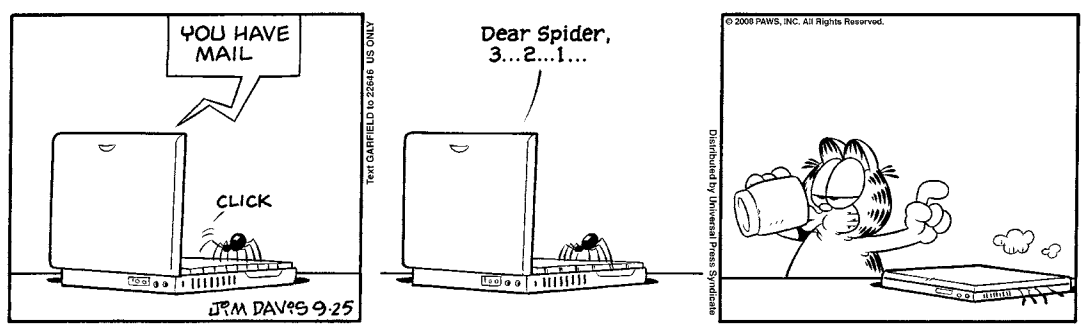
9/25

Garfield®

By Jim Davis


YOU HAVE MAIL
CLICK
Text GARFIELD to 22646 US ONLY
JIM DAVIS 9-25
Dear Spider, 3...2...1...
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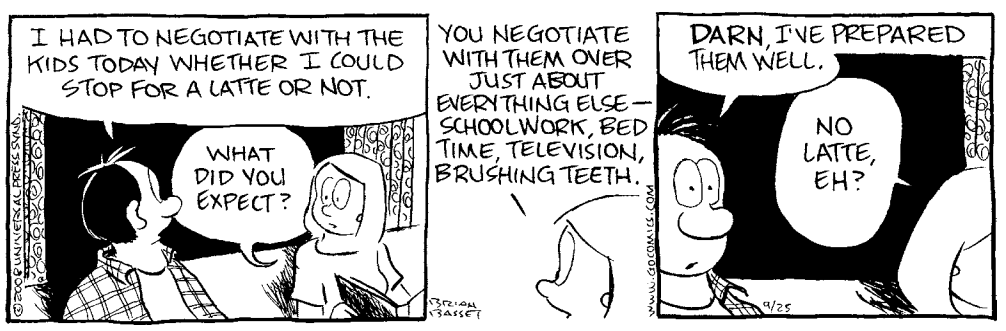
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


I HAD TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE KIDS TODAY WHETHER I COULD STOP FOR A LATTE OR NOT.
WHAT DID YOU EXPECT?
YOU NEGOTIATE WITH THEM OVER JUST ABOUT EVERYTHING ELSE— SCHOOLWORK, BED TIME, TELEVISION, BRUSHING TEETH.
DARN, I'VE PREPARED THEM WELL.
NO LATTE, EH?
9/25

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

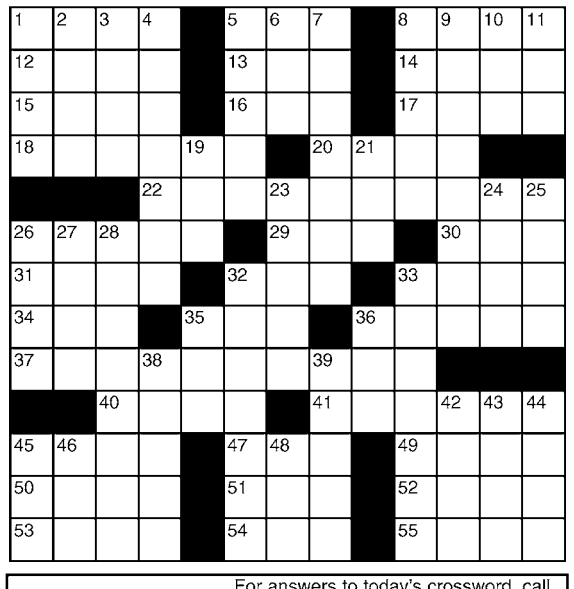
ACROSS
1 Galley supply
5 Lummox
8 Casino currency
12 Conspire (against)
13 Under the weather
14 Actress Turner
15 Ornamental bag
16 Zodiac cat
17 Family member
18 Achieve by threats
20 Reedy
22 First Civil War battle site
26 32-Across' band
29 Vacillate
30 Infuriate
31 Green-eyed monster
32 Rocker Morrison
33 King of Siam's friend
34 Noshed
35 Bart, to Homer
36 See 30-Across
37 Florida city
40 Former ugly duckling
41 Maximum
45 Genealogy chart
47 Olympic perfection
49 Actor Sharif
50 Approach
51 Caustic chemical
52 Pianist Peter
53 Recipe meas.
54 "Undeniably"
55 Oklahoma city

DOWN
1 Oil cartel
2 Sax range
3 Libertine
4 Use a wok
5 Former Houston athlete
6 Hearty brew
7 Ship's debris
8 Assertion
9 Eerily persistent
10 Hostel work environment?
11 Vanna's cohort
19 Lettuce variety
21 Embrace
23 String
24 Sea eagle
25 Posterior
26 Unhearing
27 Aware of
28 In Europe, maybe
32 Together
33 Windflower
35 Resort
36 Performance
38 Dweeb
39 Mystical lettering
42 Portent
43 Rani's wrap
44 Stepped hard (on)
45 Potent stick
46 CSA soldier
48 Needle feature

Solution time: 25 mins.

		L	A	D			M	E	N			
	T	O	U	R		L	A	D	E	S		
A	W	A	R	E		U	N	I	T	E	D	
J	O	N	A	S	B	R	O	T	H	E	R	S
A	S	S		S	E	E	R	S		T	I	E
			H	E	A	D			S	H	E	A
	S	C	O	R	N		L	A	N	E	S	
T	H	O	R			F	O	W	L			
E	R	R		M	A	I	N	E		T	A	U
L	E	N	N	O	N	S	I	S	T	E	R	S
	W	E	A	L	T	H		O	R	A	T	E
		A	G	L	E	Y		M	A	S	S	
			S	Y	S			E	Y	E		

Yesterday's answer 9-25



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Catherine Zeta-Jones, 39; Will Smith, 40; Scottie Pippen, 43; Aida Turturro, 46

Happy Birthday: Everyone will want to be in your corner this year, but if you aren't selective, you may come across as indecisive. Choose your battles, displaying balance and integrity. A change regarding work, friends and even your pet situation can be expected. Be well-prepared. Your numbers are 8, 11, 17, 21, 35, 39, 46

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Set the record straight. Ask questions, give direct answers and clear the air. Partnership problems can all be resolved with a little finesse, ingenuity and honest communication. A creative partnership can lead to more cash. ✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Incorporate something you do well into an organization that needs your services. Offering to volunteer can turn into a full time position. If you have to travel or change your location, do so. ✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): You can talk peers, colleagues or people in your industry into checking out an innovative idea you have. Emotional interaction will lead to a passionate encounter with someone you regard highly. Enjoy the moment. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Traveling for the wrong reason will not bring you what you are hoping for. If you are in a dispute with someone, step back and let things settle down. You will have a much better chance resolving issues if you find a creative solution that benefits everyone. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): You can let your Leo charisma lead the way to living, loving and being happy. It won't be difficult for you to please others and also take care of any of your own needs. Your generosity will speak volumes to the people you care for. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): A friendship may be in trouble if one or both of you is dishonest. Trying to spare someone's feelings only prolongs the agony and will get you into trouble. Put your thoughts and efforts into family-oriented activities instead of isolating yourself. Deal with issues swiftly. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): You can't keep spinning your wheels because someone you are connected to is standing still. Move forward in order to progress on your own. Sometimes you need to back away from people you cannot help. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Don't get all wrapped up in emotional issues. Move past the trivial matters and get to the source of the problem. Make strategic calls that will open up communications regarding a project you want to launch. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): You are right on target with your ideas. A partnership is a good step to take now that you have something concrete to offer. Your bargaining chips are up and a good deal can be cut. ✪✪✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Put some serious thought into what you are going to do next. You don't want to end up giving away too much or giving in to someone who is looking for a cash handout. Be smart about how you position yourself. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): You'll be emotional about your next move. Questions will be asked that must be answered before you can go forward. A promise made to you will be kept and will help you out emotionally and financially. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Give some thought to making a career change. Get information that will help you decide what direction you want to take. Your entertaining personality will ensure that there is genuine interest in what you are doing. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are aggressive and in demand because you take action and get things done. You are a leader and a competitor.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			1					
8		3		2			4	
				7			9	5
		1				7		8
				4				
3		7				4		
2	5			3				
	7			5		8		6
					4			

Difficulty Level ★★★ 9/25

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

1	2	4	6	7	5	9	3	8
9	7	6	3	8	4	2	5	1
3	8	5	2	1	9	4	6	7
2	4	9	7	6	1	5	8	3
5	6	1	9	3	8	7	2	4
8	3	7	4	5	2	6	1	9
7	1	2	8	9	6	3	4	5
4	5	3	1	2	7	8	9	6
6	9	8	5	4	3	1	7	2

Difficulty Level ★★★ 9/24

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

THE JERSEY BOYS **Solution: 11 letters**

O	E	D	T	E	T	R	A	U	Q	E	V	O	L	E
G	R	M	E	R	D	O	C	U	M	A	C	T	S	N
A	C	C	O	M	P	O	S	I	T	I	O	N	I	R
C	L	N	H	T	I	E	T	O	U	R	P	O	X	U
I	O	O	N	E	I	A	L	R	E	E	L	R	T	O
H	E	A	N	T	S	O	L	S	E	E	A	O	I	B
C	R	M	I	G	N	T	N	C	G	C	Y	T	E	L
G	O	C	K	D	O	E	R	A	C	G	N	O	S	E
R	C	A	O	F	P	R	T	A	L	A	V	O	M	M
E	K	N	O	S	E	S	I	S	T	A	T	E	C	U
G	M	U	B	L	A	U	C	A	L	I	L	N	M	S
U	R	F	F	T	A	E	N	L	V	O	O	R	A	I
S	Y	F	R	A	N	K	I	E	D	Ⓕ	Ⓐ	Ⓝ	Ⓢ	C
R	O	T	C	E	R	I	D	I	V	E	G	A	S	A
H	I	T	S	S	E	C	C	U	S	T	H	G	I	L

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Acclaimed, Acts, Album, Book, Chicago, Cities, Cloer, Composition, Concert, DeVito, Director, Emotional, Fans, Four, Frankie, Grant, Gregus, Hits, Hoff, Honor, Lights, London, Longoria, Love, Massi, McAnuff, Melbourne, Melodic, Musical, Orchestration, Play, Quartet, Rock, Scenes, Sixties, Song, Spenser, Stage, Success, Toronto, Tour, Valli, Vegas, Venue

Yesterday's Answer: Supply

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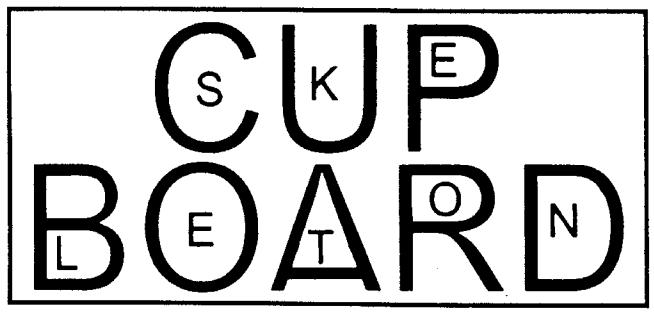

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Mets win over Cubs, stay ahead in wildcard race

NEW YORK (AP)—New York pitcher Johan Santana got an unusual broken-bat infield single and struck out 10 batters to lead the Mets to a critical 6-2 win over the Chicago Cubs in the National League on Tuesday.

With five games to play, New York stayed a game ahead of Milwaukee in the NL wildcard race and closed within 1-1/2 games of NL East division leader Philadelphia.

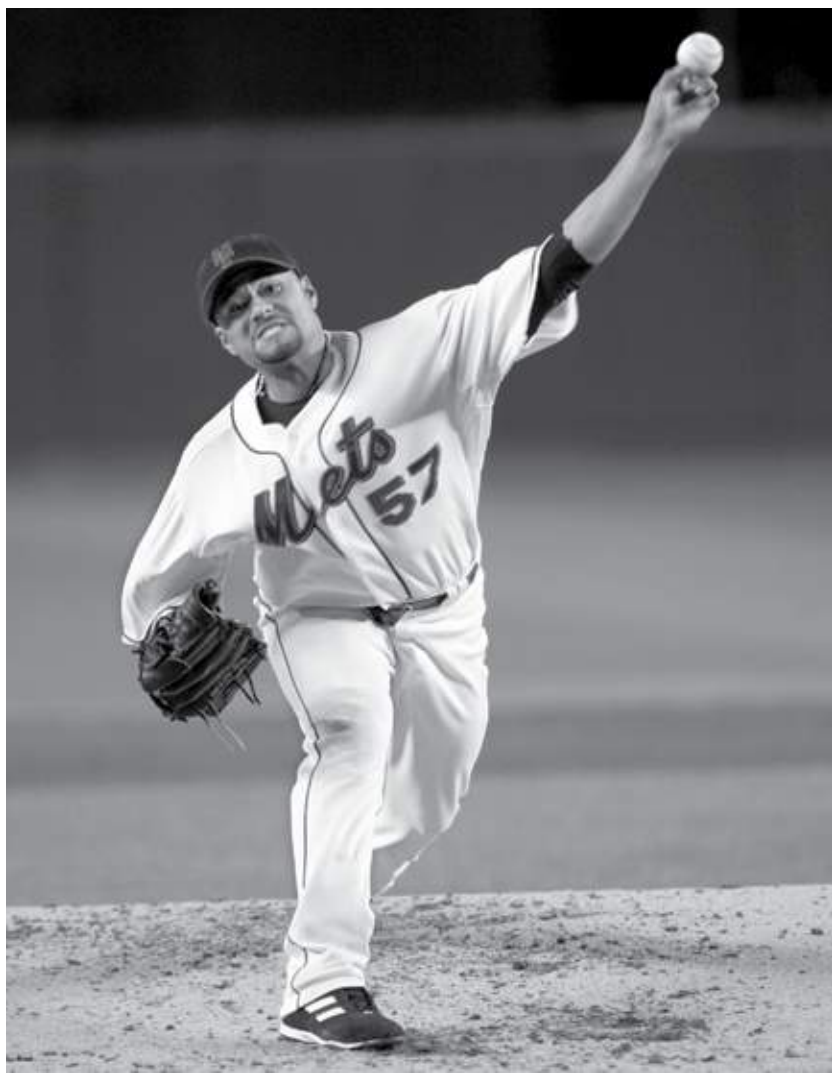
The victory arrested the Mets' three-game losing streak that had sharpened memories of last year's dramatic collapse that saw the team go from playoff certainties to post-season spectators.

Santana allowed just two runs in eight innings and improved to 8-0 with a 2.26 ERA in his past 16 starts.

The Cubs have already secured the best record in the NL and home-field advantage throughout the playoffs.

With one out in the fifth and a man on first, Santana hit a broken-bat grounder up the middle. Chicago pitcher Sean Marshall eluded a piece of Santana's bat but could not get the ball, which then kicked off the broken wood, bouncing off the glove of the shortstop.

After an out and a walk, David Wright lined a tying two-run single to left.



AP

New York Mets starter Johan Santana pitches against the Chicago Cubs during the second inning of a baseball game at Shea Stadium in New York, Tuesday, Sept. 23, 2008.

Braves 3, Phillies 2

In Philadelphia, the home team fell to just its second loss in 12 games, defeated by Atlanta.

Casey Kotchman homered and pitcher Mike Hampton won for the first time in a month for the Braves.

The Phillies twice had serious shots at big innings against the oft-injured Hampton. They left the bases loaded in the third and ran themselves out of a rally in the sixth.

Hampton allowed just two runs in six innings.

Dodgers 10, Padres 1

In Los Angeles, the home team beat San Diego to close in on the NL West title.

Nomar Garciaparra and Blake DeWitt hit three-run homers for the Dodgers, who moved 3 games clear of Arizona with only five to play and closer to their first division title since 2004.

Los Angeles sent 10 men to the plate during a six-run first inning.

Cardinals 7, Diamondbacks 4

In St. Louis, Arizona's playoff hopes took a major blow with defeat by St. Louis.

Cardinals pitcher Kyle Lohse won his 15th game as the hosts clobbered veteran Diamondbacks pitcher Randy Johnson for the second time this month.

St. Louis was officially eliminated from postseason contention for the second straight season when New York beat Chicago.

The Cardinals scored four runs on five hits in the first and then hung on after Lohse allowed a two-run homer in the fourth and a solo shot in the sixth.

Nationals 9, Marlins 4

In Washington, Florida's playoff hopes officially ended at the hands of Washington—a team simply trying to avoid 100 losses.

The Nationals broke a five-game losing streak and their loss tally remained at 98 with five to play.

The Marlins' fourth straight loss, coupled with New York's victory over Chicago, mathematically eliminated Florida from the wildcard race.

Brewers 7, Pirates 5

In Milwaukee, Prince Fielder got the game-winning homer with two outs in the bottom of the ninth to keep Milwaukee in the thick of the playoff race.

Fielder's shot kept Milwaukee a game behind wildcard holder New York with five to go. It was Milwaukee's 10th game-ending hit this season and its 10th straight win over Pittsburgh this year.

Rockies 9, Giants 4

In San Francisco, Colorado downed San Francisco to win on the road for the first time this month.

Troy Tulowitzki had four hits and three RBIs, while Seth Smith had three hits and drove in two runs for the Rockies.

Reds 2, Astros 1

In Houston, Cincinnati scored two unearned runs to push Houston to the brink of playoff elimination.

With the Mets' win over Chicago, Houston fell 4-1/2 games behind New York in the wildcard race with five games to go.

Cincinnati's Edinson Volquez pitched 7 1-3 strong innings, notching his 17th victory. He had three no-decisions and a loss since his previous win. He allowed one run and struck out nine in the longest outing of his career.

Twins 9, White Sox 3

In Minneapolis, the Minnesota Twins edged within 1-1/2 games of Chicago atop the American League Central division with a win over the White Sox in the opening game of a crucial three-game series.

Minnesota's Jason Kubel went 3-for-4 with two homers, including going back-to-back with Delmon Young in the seventh to put the game out of reach.

The Twins practically need a sweep of this series to reclaim top spot in the Central, and can now overhaul the White Sox by winning Wednesday and Thursday.

Chicago's Ken Griffey Jr. passed Sammy Sosa for sole possession of fifth place on the career list with his 610th home run.

Rays 5, Orioles 2, Game 1
Rays 7, Orioles 5, Game 2

In Baltimore, Tampa Bay moved two steps closer to claiming the AL East pennant by beating Baltimore in a double header.

The Rays had never before won both games in a double header in 13 attempts, and moved three games ahead of Boston in pursuit of their first division title.

The two victories enabled the Rays to break the record held by the 1991 Atlanta Braves for most wins by a team that owned the worst record in the majors one year earlier.

Baltimore has lost eight straight overall, and 11 straight to Tampa Bay.

Mariners 9, Angels 6

In Seattle, Los Angeles lead over Tampa Bay in the chase for the AL's best record was cut to two games after losing at Seattle.

Kenji Johjima drove in three runs to end the Mariners' 12-game losing streak.

The Mariners, who trailed 6-2 after five innings, scored four runs in the sixth to tie the game then added three in the seventh.

It was a game with significance for both teams. The Angels are trying to hold off Tampa Bay for home-field advantage throughout the playoffs while the Mariners stayed on 99 losses, trying desperately to stave off 100 losses, with five more to play.

The Angels, who have never finished with the best record in baseball, are two wins short of the franchise record set by the 2002 team that won the World Series.

Red Sox 5, Indians 4

In Boston, the home team edged Cleveland to make certain of a long-likely playoff spot.

The defending World Series champions scored three times in the fifth inning to rally from a two-run deficit.

With the win, the Red Sox clinched at least the AL wildcard, putting them 6-1/2 games ahead of New York with five games left. Boston slipped 3 games behind Tampa Bay in the AL East pennant race.

Yankees to miss playoffs for 1st time since 1995

TORONTO (AP)—The New York Yankees will miss the postseason for the first time since starting their run in 1995. Mike Mussina pitched five shutout innings to earn his 19th win, Jason Giambi homered and the Yankees beat the Toronto Blue Jays 3-1 on It wasn't enough to keep New York's slim postseason hopes alive as Boston beat Cleveland 5-4 minutes before the Yankees win. The Red Sox win clinched at least the AL wild-card and eliminated the Yankees from postseason contention.

New York shortstop Derek Jeter didn't start because of a sore left hand, but came on as a defensive replacement in the ninth inning. This will be the first October that the Yankees missed the playoffs in 13 years—a remarkable run, which included four World Series titles.

The Atlanta Braves still hold the big league record by reaching 14 straight postseasons. No one team in the majors has currently made the playoffs more than two years in a row.

Mussina (19-9), who also won 19 games with Baltimore in 1995 and 1996, will try for a career-high 20th victory when he faces Boston at Fenway Park on Sunday in the final game of the regular season.

With his 269th career victory, Mussina moved past Jim Palmer into 33rd place on baseball's career list. Mussina has the most wins of any pitcher never to have a 20-win season.

The right-hander allowed four hits, walked none and struck out six.

AP

New York Yankees shortstop Cody Ransom turns the double play on Toronto Blue Jays Travis Snider (45) during the third inning of a baseball game in Toronto on Tuesday, Sept. 23, 2008

Marco Scutaro hit a one-out double off Mussina in the first, but was thrown out trying to stretch the hit into a triple.

Mussina was struck on the right elbow by Travis Snider's line drive single in the third, with the ball ricocheting into foul territory between home plate and third base. Trainer Gene Monahan and manager Joe Girardi came out to check on Mussina, who declared himself fine after two practice pitches, then ended the inning with a 4-6-3 double play.

Mariano Rivera worked the ninth for his 38th save in 39 opportunities.

Blue Jays right-hander Jesse Litsch (12-9) allowed three runs and five hits in seven innings. He walked one and struck out a career-high eight.

New York opened the scoring in the second when Giambi singled, went to third on Xavier Nady's double and scored on Robinson Cano's grounder.

Giambi hit a one-out solo drive to right center in the fourth, his 32nd.

The Yankees made it 3-0 in the seventh when Cano doubled, took third on a wild pitch and scored on Gregg Zaun's passed ball.

Toronto scored a run in the seventh on Scott Rolen's RBI single, but Joba Chamberlain ended the threat by striking out Gregg Zaun and Snider

Yankees 3, Blue Jays 1

In Toronto, New York beat Toronto, but Boston's win made it official: the Yankees will miss the postseason for the first time since 1993.

New York starter Mike Mussina notched his 19th win of the season and 269th career victory, moving him into 33rd place on the all-time career list.

Royals 5, Tigers 0

In Detroit, Kansas City shut out Detroit to push the Tigers into last place in the AL Central.

Pitchers Zack Greinke and Leo Nunez combined on a four-hitter for the Royals, who have won 10 of their past 12.

Detroit has lost 11 of 12 and was shut out for the 13th time this season.

Rangers 6, Athletics 4

In Arlington, Texas, the home team snapped a five-game losing streak by downing Oakland.

Hank Blalock hit a go-ahead homer in the seventh. Blalock, who sent the game into extra innings Monday with a home run, lined a 1-2 pitch into the seats in right for a 6-4 lead.

Rams to start QB Green Sunday against Bills

AP

St. Louis Rams quarterback Marc Bulger makes a pass against the Seattle Seahawks during the first quarter of an NFL football game on Sunday, Sept. 21, 2008, in Seattle.

ST. LOUIS (AP)—Marc Bulger is out as the St. Louis Rams starting quarterback after throwing only two touchdown passes in three games and will be replaced by 38-year-old Trent Green for Sunday's game against Buffalo.

The benching of the Rams' highest-paid player, announced by coach Scott Linehan in a terse, two-paragraph release on Tuesday, signals just how desperate times have become for the sagging franchise. Linehan is 11-24 in his third season, including 0-3 this year with none of the games competitive.

Last week, Linehan was told by new owner Chip Rosenbloom that improvements need to be made or that changes would be forthcoming. This is Linehan's first head coaching job at any level, earned off success as an offensive coordinator with the Dolphins and Vikings. He was a quarterback in college at Idaho.

The team said in the release that Linehan would not comment on his decision until after practice Wednesday. The Rams were off Tuesday.

"Scott made an announcement, and he'll amplify it tomorrow," team spokesman Rick Smith said.

The Rams have lost 16 of their past 19 games while getting outscored 116-29. The point total would not have been enough to win any of the first three games, and their mediocre 240-yard total in Sunday's 37-13 loss at Seattle was still a season best for the league's lowest-ranked offense.

Bulger finished 18-for-31 for 184 yards with one touchdown and an interception on Sunday, his third consecutive game with less than 200 passing yards.

Linehan had hinted at possible changes during a news conference on Monday.

"I foresee evaluating everything," Linehan said. "What they are right now does depend on the health of our team in spots, but I would think that anything's possible at this point as far as our lineup."

Linehan added that he was tempted to make moves just to shake things up.

"Yeah, I think we'd be crazy if we didn't try something different because what we've done for the first three weeks is not working," the coach said.

Green has experience under new offensive coordinator Al Saunders and quarterbacks coach Terry Shea, possible reasons for the switch. Green earned his second Pro Bowl berth in 2005 with the Chiefs while working under those two coaches, throwing for more than 4,000 yards.

Green started for the Chiefs from 2001 until being sidelined by injuries midway through 2006. It is his first start since the fifth week last season for the Miami Dolphins.

Green is from St. Louis and was supposed to be the starting quarterback on the 1999 Rams that won the Super Bowl, signing as a free agent after a successful year as the Redskins starter the previous season.

Kurt Warner was thrust into the starting role and had a storybook season after Green's season-ending knee injury during the preseason.

Shareef Abdur-Rahim decides to retire

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—Sacramento Kings forward Shareef Abdur-Rahim retired Monday because of a persistent right knee injury.

The 31-year-old Abdur-Rahim played 12 NBA seasons for four teams, beginning his career in 1996 when the Vancouver Grizzlies made him the third overall draft pick. The 2002 All-Star averaged 18.1 points, 7.5 rebounds and 2.5 assists in his career, but the power forward reached the playoffs just once, with the Kings in 2006.

He appeared in just six games last season before getting season-ending surgery in December on his long-injured right knee. The former California star had two surgeries on his knee in six months last year to clean out the joint, but the pace of his recovery was frustratingly slow.

"I came to grips with the fact that, health-wise, I won't be able to get back to the condition and level that is needed to play in the NBA," Abdur-Rahim said. "My right knee has become arthritic over the years, and is to the point where it won't allow me do the things and play at the level at which I'm accustomed to playing. As tough as it is to come to grips with, it's the reality."

Abdur-Rahim also played for Atlanta and Portland before joining the Kings in 2005. He averaged at least 18.7 points in each of his first 7 1/2 NBA seasons while becoming the sixth-youngest player in NBA history to score 10,000 points, but knee problems plagued his three years with the Kings.

NFL BRIEFS

Jets coach Mangini not worried about Favre's ankle

NEW YORK (AP)—Brett Favre's playing streak appears safe. The New York quarterback rolled his left ankle during the third quarter of the Jets' 48-29 loss at San Diego on Monday night, but coach Eric Mangini wasn't overly concerned about Favre's injury. "Brett usually plays," Mangini said Tuesday, "and I would anticipate the same." Favre was limping noticeably after the injury and in the locker room after the game. He has started an NFL-record 256 straight regular-season games, and is expected to start Sunday at home against Arizona.

Browns QB Anderson on short leash after 0-3 start

CLEVELAND (AP)—Maybe it was fitting that Derek Anderson spent his day off at an adoption center for cats and dogs. Cleveland's starting quarterback is on a short leash. With his team off to a disturbing 0-3 start, Browns coach Romeo Crennel is considering personnel changes and may bench Anderson for popular backup Brady Quinn. Anderson, who made the Pro Bowl last season while leading Cleveland to 10 wins, has thrown just two touchdown passes and five interceptions in Cleveland's losses to Dallas, Pittsburgh and Baltimore. He enters this week's game at Cincinnati with a 43.5 quarterback rating—only Kansas City's Tyler Thigpen's 38.3 is worse. Anderson expects to start against the Bengals. However, if he struggles, he won't finish.

Steelers RB Parker, NT Hampton out for Ravens game

PITTSBURGH (AP)—The Pittsburgh Steelers' running game struggled last season when Willie Parker was injured. They're convinced that won't happen now that they have Rashard Mendenhall. The Steelers' main injury worry following their 15-6 loss Sunday in Philadelphia was the punishment quarterback Ben Roethlisberger took while being sacked eight times. He played with a slight shoulder separation, and a right hand injury sidelined him late in the fourth quarter. When Tomlin revealed his updated injury list Tuesday, Roethlisberger wasn't on it, but Parker unexpectedly was—the Pro Bowl runner has a sprained left knee that will keep him out of Monday night's home game against Baltimore (2-0). Both the offense and defense will be missing key players. Four-time Pro Bowl defensive lineman Casey Hampton (groin sprain) also won't play and defensive end Brett Keisel (calf) will miss a second successive game. Chris Hoke, who made 10 starts in 2004, replaces Hampton.

Chiefs QB Huard could start Sunday against Broncos

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—Saddled with a 12-game losing streak, the rebuilding Kansas City Chiefs may decide they need a win more than a long look at a young quarterback. Without coming right out and saying so, coach Herm Edwards strongly hinted Tuesday that veteran Damon Huard would probably get the nod on Sunday against Denver and that second-year man Tyler Thigpen would return to the bench after one start. "I'll decide on that tomorrow. Sleep on it a little bit more," Edwards said. "I'm leaning that way. I've got to address the team, exactly what we're going to do." Most of the players probably feel that Huard gives them the best chance of upsetting the unbeaten Broncos and snapping the longest losing skid in franchise history. After Brodie Croyle was injured in the season opener at New England, Huard came in and nearly pulled off an improbable victory before losing 17-10.

NBA BRIEFS

Trail Blazers welcome Fernandez

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)—More than 100 fans welcomed Spanish guard Rudy Fernandez to the Portland Trail Blazers upon his arrival to the city with chants of "Rudy! Rudy! Rudy!" "It was a good surprise," Fernandez said. "When I arrived, I say, 'OK, let's go practice now. Let's go.'" The 6-foot-6 Olympian arrived at Portland International Airport on Monday and was whisked to the Rose Garden, where the Blazers held a news conference to introduce him. "He's a team player. He's a great kid," general manager Kevin Pritchard said. "I think he'll raise the level of competition for everyone." Fernandez played for Spain in Beijing, scoring 22 points in the gold medal game against the United States. The U.S. team won, 118-107. Portland coach Nate McMillan was an assistant coach for the U.S. team. He and some of the other coaches went to watch Spain during the competition, with Kobe Bryant tagging along. McMillan recounted how Bryant said to him: "He's your kid, huh? He's pretty good." Pritchard said the team would give Fernandez time to acclimate to Portland and find a place to live. The Blazers would work on getting him a tutor to help him with his English.

Suns sign European point guard

PHOENIX (AP)—The Phoenix Suns have signed Slovenian point guard Goran Dragic to a multiyear contract and say he will play for the team this season. The Suns acquired rights to the quick, sharp-shooting 22-year-old lefthander in a draft-day trade with the San Antonio Spurs. The contract is for three years with a team option for a fourth. The Suns see the 6-foot-3, 190-pound European as a backup and eventual replacement for 34-year-old Steve Nash. Dragic reached a $2 million buyout agreement with his Spanish team TAU Ceramica. The Suns contributed the NBA limit of $500,000. That doesn't count Dragic's salary which no doubt covered in the remainder of the deal. Suns general manager Steve Kerr said Monday night that the deal took longer than expected but added "we knew it was just a matter of time." Although Dragic was the 45th overall pick overall, the Suns considered him second only to No. 1 pick Derrick Rose among point guards in the draft. In a video shown on YouTube of the Suns headquarters during the draft, Kerr clenched his fist in triumph, then exchanged high-fives with everyone in the room after completing the trade that nabbed Dragic in the second round.

Guard Juan Dixon returns to Washington Wizards

WASHINGTON (AP)—Guard Juan Dixon signed a free-agent contract with the Washington Wizards on Tuesday, returning to the team that drafted him after he led Maryland to an NCAA title. Dixon played his first three NBA seasons with the Wizards, from 2002-03 to 2004-05. He has also been with Portland, Toronto and Detroit, averaging 8.9 points, 1.7 assists and 1.9 rebounds over six seasons. "He's a proven NBA player. He's a tough, hard-nosed competitor," Wizards president Ernie Grunfeld said. After beginning last season with the Raptors, Dixon was traded to the Pistons in February. He was selected the Most Outstanding Player of the 2002 Final Four for helping Maryland win the national championship, then was picked in the first round of that year's NBA draft by the Wizards. "I'm excited to return to the area and to resume my career with the Wizards," Dixon said.

Sakudi's Tudela is BASA women's batting leader

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

Team Sakudi's Pauline Tudela is currently leading the batting category in the ongoing 2008 Belau Amateur Softball Association women's league.

After nine games each for the five teams competing in the regular season, Tudela hit 15-for-24 at bat for her leading average of .625.

Her team, Sakudi, is currently tied with the Hitters with their identical 8-1 win-loss records. The other teams are Ohn Sakau (4-5), Esta Ombe (3-6), and Atu'Asi (2-7).

The statistics of the Top 10 batting leaders were based on 19 or more at-bats.

Three players have identical .600 averages, including Tudela's teammate Bert Camacho.

Camacho hit 15-for-25 while Kuki Pangelinan of Atu Asi and Merselyn Santos of Ohn Sakau came-up with similar record of 12-for-20.

Camacho is the leader in runs scored with 16 while Palacios and Tudela had 13 and Kayla Techur (11).

Three other Sakudi sluggers are include in the Top 10 batting leaders. They were Lenise Kapileo (fifth), Jenny Palacios (sixth), and Erica Tenorio (eighth).

Kapileo averaged .579 by hitting 11-for-19, while Palacios had .536 (15-for-28) and Tenorio .524 (11-for-21).

Aside from Santos, three others from her team made the cut. They were seventh Semerina Simram .526 (10-for-19), ninth Dolorina Panuelo .500 (10-for-20), and 10th Roquita Norita .500 (11-for-22).

Palacios leads in doubles and triples as well with four and two, respectively.

In homeruns, Melissa Benjamin and Polly Omechelang had two each. while eight players are tied for one each.

Santos and Norita are the leaders in RBIs with 11 each, Palacios and Tudela have 10.

In the battle on the mound, Sakudi's Bego Camacho leads with a 2.15 earned run average.

In four games, Camacho pitched 26 innings, allowing only 11 runs (eight ERA) on 32 hits.

Felisa Brel of the Hitters is second with her 3.50 ERA, while another Sakudi player, Charlene Cabrera, is third with 4.03 ERA.

Rounding out the Top 6 were Dolorina Panuelo of Ohn Sakau (4.27 ERA), Polly Omechelang of Esta Ombe (8.65 ERA), and Meng Yamada of Atu Asi (13.32 ERA).

Yamada is the pacesetter in strikeouts with 16, followed by Omechelang with 10. while Camacho and Brel are tied with nine apiece.

Women's futsal boot camp Saturday

The two-part boot camp for women's futsal will start this Saturday at the Whispering Palms School field on Navy Hill.

This Saturday's boot camp will run from 10am to 12nn, instead of the initial schedule of 8:30am to 11:30am.

Players age 14 years old and above are welcome to attend the boot camp, which aims to prepare players for the women's futsal league next month.

"Female players regardless of their skill level are encouraged to participate in the upcoming boot camp to learn futsal rules and skills, which are somewhat different from those of the traditional 11 aside football that was played during the last women's league," said NMIFA women's committee member Laura Williams.

Futsal is an indoor football game with teams having five players each on the court. It demands quick reflexes, fast thinking, and accurate ball control. Games are played in a basketball-style court, with no walls and a low-bouncing ball, requiring players to use their skill rather than the ball's bounce to propel it.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CNMI female strikers duel Guam players in a futsal tournament in Guam last year. The CNMI will be holding its own futsal league next month.

The second and last boot camp will be held on Oct. 4, also from 10am to 12nn.

Participants are required to pay $20 to join the boot camp. The entrance fee will also cover other fees for future tournaments of the season.

This year's futsal league will run from Oct. 11 to Dec. 6. ***(Roselyn B. Monroyo)***

THREE

From Page 28

solo second place after giving up 40 points against their opponent.

Acme Roofing won all three sets against Team Two in another lopsided contest, 21-13, 21-8, 21-19. The team, composed of Larry Sharry, Jazz Roscow, Rob Jordan, Luthor Taylor, Gordon Semen, Elizabeth Henke, Jenni Brown, and Dana McFadden, will square off with Enyophace in the battle of early leaders at 8:30pm tonight.

MHS Oakies won the first game of the season at the expense of Champ-on, 21-8, 21-16, 15-7, to keep the third position in the 11-team field league after scoring 57 points, while allowing their rivals the lowest score of only 31 points.

The Oakies, composed of John Nekaifes, Typhoon Saito, Jordan Marciano, Barry Mality, Charnessa Lizama, Mildred Kintol, and Heartim Williams, will face Team Two in their second game tonight at 7:30pm.

Off Twice also won its first game against MHS Peers by taking the first two sets, 21-11 and 21-13, before dropping the third set, 13-15.

Bannered by Lindsey Sosovec, Rex, Alex Hammet, Jay Kang, Amanda Armstrong, Amie McRoberts, Angie Perez, Autumn Beechler, and Youme Sharry, Off Twice occupies solo fourth place with a 2-1 win-loss mark.

The MHS Peers are in fifth with a 1-2 win-loss record and scored 54 points.

Champ-on, Kimoichi and Team No. Two are tied with 0-3. Three teams have yet to make their appearances. They are Karakuchi, MHS Serves up!, and MHS 67 Doh-Fins.

The two other games scheduled today will be between Kimoichi and MHS Peers at 5:30pm, while Karakuchi and MHS 67 Doh-Fins will debut as they square off at 6:30pm.

SONICS

From Page 28

Sixers hold a 4-0 slate.

While the Sonics remained at the top of the team standings, the Kontenders continued to plummet, having lost their last four games.

The Kontenders dropped to a 2-4 record despite getting a total of 41 points from Trevor Ogumoro, Jester Kaipat, and Eugene Dillay, who all came off the bench.

The Sonics' bench matched the Kontenders' output, but they played more as a team, as eight players worked together to get those points.

The Kontenders' starting five let their team down, as Dennis Ngirongor, Douglas Dillay, Derek Abraham, Pomee Mailou, and Jay Charley tallied only eight points.

The Sonics' starting five, which was composed of Michael Eclevia, Sheen Metran, Bryan Ajoste, Tristan Ecalnea, and Lawrence Echon combined for 27 points.

Eclevia made the Sonics' first two baskets and hit all his six points n the first half, which saw the Jesse Tudela-coached squad ahead by 11 points, 39-28.

The Sonics were never threatened from thereon, as the Kontenders had only Ogumoro and Kaipat making wonders for their team and they were no match against the solid starting five and supporting crew of Southern.

The Sonics had 14 players making it into the scoreboard, while the Kontenders had only eight.

Ecalnea paced Southern with 11 points, while Leo Galarse chipped in nine. Two Sonics players added six points apiece, while six had four markers each.

Kaipat led all scorers with 20, while Ogumoro contributed 15.

The Kontenders have two more games left and must win them to avoid being paired with a tough team in the playoffs. The Kontenders' next assignment will be the G-Stars on Sept. 30 and their last game will be against the Chalan Kanoa Saints on Oct. 6.

Tonight, the last two place teams in the standings will collide with the Suns facing the Rollers II.

The Suns made it into the win column after dropping their first four games following their 43-38 triumph over the Saints on Sept. 15. But they failed to continue their winning ways when they lost to the Sonics on Sept. 19, 49-68.

The Rollers II has the worst record in the nine-team league with its 0-7 slate. Tonight will be the Rollers II's last chance to enter the win column.

Sonics 77 – Ecalnea 11, Galarse 10, Chan 9, Eclevia 6, Catap 6, Salas 5, Ajoste 4, Metran 4, Echon 4, Villanueva 4, Masga 4, Salem 4, Cadiang 2, Dela Cruz 2.

Kontenders 58 – Kaipat 20, Ogumoro 15, E. DIlay 8, Mailou 4, Kileleman 2, Charley 2, D. Dillay 2.

Scoring by halves: 38-29, 77-58.

Referees: Connie Camacho and Gabriel White.

DAN

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Other Fil-Taga members who joined last weekend's monthly tournament were Ted Malaran (net 71), Nestor Siruelo (72), Fred Cataluna (73), Mando Guban (73), Rene Batallones (78), John Matsumoto (78), Manny Corcuera (79), Leo Ganacias (80), Manny Po, and Nono Bostre (88).

Cataluna, a 10-handicapper, recorded the lowest gross in the tournament with his 11-over par 83. August Ace and four-handicapper Leo Ganacias had the second lowest gross with 84.

All monthly winners will qualify for the association's year-end tournament with the victor getting the Golfer of the Year title.

Fil-Taga, which was established in 1993, has three more monthly tournaments left before calling the 2008 season off and elect new officers.

The current Fil-Taga officials are Juan Dela Cruz Jr., president; Jhun Calma, vice president; Po, secretary; and Guban, treasurer. The association's board of directors is composed of Fr. Manny Corcuera, Miguel Cruz, Jr., Malaran, Gil Faller, Ferraz, Greg De Torres, Batallones, Siruelo, and George Sablan

Fil-Taga's monthly tournaments are played under a computer-controlled handicap system that creates parity among players in the A and B Flights.

NMIFA

From Page 28

football in the CNMI in a high level," he said.

Tan added future CNMI National Team players will come from the interscholastic league so it is very important to provide them with the proper playing venue and equipment to help them become excellent players.

Tan Holdings Foundation was among the generous donors for the league, giving $10,000 cash for the interscholastic program.

First Hawaiian Bank, which was represented by assistant vice president and branch manager Vicky Concepcion in yesterday's presentation, donated $5,000.

Also present at the donation presentation was Soledad Tenorio of Joeten Charitable Foundation, which donated equipment.

Other donors were Long Way Enterprises Co. Ltd, Martin Hong, Hong Kong Football Association, and Mr. and Mrs. Larry Lee.

The interscholastic league is expected to kick off next year, replacing PSS' one-day tournament.

Coaches/teachers met with league coordinators yesterday to discuss the league's format and rules and regulations.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE
East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
y-Tampa Bay	95	62	.605	–
y-Boston	92	65	.586	3
New York	86	71	.548	9
Toronto	83	74	.529	12
Baltimore	67	90	.427	28

Central Division

Chicago	86	70	.551	–
Minnesota	85	72	.541	1 1/2
Cleveland	79	78	.503	7 1/2
Kansas City	72	86	.456	15
Detroit	71	85	.455	15

West Division

x-Los Angeles	97	60	.618	–
Texas	76	82	.481	21 1/2
Oakland	75	82	.478	22
Seattle	58	99	.369	39

NATIONAL LEAGUE
East Division

Philadelphia	89	69	.563	–
New York	87	70	.554	1 1/2
Florida	81	76	.516	7 1/2
Atlanta	70	88	.443	19
Washington	59	98	.376	29 1/2

Central Division

x-Chicago	95	61	.609	–
Milwaukee	86	71	.548	9 1/2
Houston	82	74	.526	13
St. Louis	81	76	.516	14 1/2
Cincinnati	74	83	.471	21 1/2
Pittsburgh	65	92	.414	30 1/2

West Division

Los Angeles	82	75	.522	–
Arizona	79	78	.503	3
Colorado	72	85	.459	10
San Francisco	70	87	.446	12
San Diego	61	96	.389	21

Yesterday's Games
Atlanta 3, Philadelphia 2
N.Y. Mets 6, Chicago Cubs 2
Washington 9, Florida 4
Cincinnati 2, Houston 1
Milwaukee 7, Pittsburgh 5
St. Louis 7, Arizona 4
L.A. Dodgers 10, San Diego 1
Colorado 9, San Francisco 4
Tampa Bay 5, Baltimore 2, 1st game
Tampa Bay 7, Baltimore 5, 2nd game
Boston 5, Cleveland 4
Kansas City 5, Detroit 0
N.Y. Yankees 3, Toronto 1
Texas 6, Oakland 4
Minnesota 9, Chicago White Sox 3
Seattle 9, L.A. Angels 6

x-clinched division
y-clinched playoff spot

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

Rotary Standings

Southern Sonics	7	0
San Antonio Sixers	4	0
CNMI Jr. Nationals	4	1
G-Stars	3	2
Rollers I	2	2
Kontenders	2	4
Suns	1	4
C.K. Saints	1	4
Rollers II	0	7

NMIVA Standings

	W	L	PA	PF
Enyophase	3	0	63	34
Acme Roofing	3	0	63	40
MHS Oakies	3	0	57	31
Off Twice	2	1	54	39
MHS Peers	0	3	39	54
Champ-On	0	3	31	57
Team 2	0	3	40	63
Kimoichi	0	3	34	63
Karakuchi	0	0		
MHS Serves Up!	0	0		
MHS 67 Doh-Fins	0	0		

W - Win
L - Loss
PA - Points Against
PF - Points For

13th Club at the Hyatt Golf Classic

Photos by
NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

Teammates have their fun day while waiting for their turn to begin their campaign.

One of the competitors looks if his tee shot lands within his target in hole No. 1.

Champions Jess Wabol and Bae Yong Man receive their winning prize from Club Elan manager Robin Eugenio.

The team of John Sablan, Paz Younis, and James Lee placed second and won a one-night stay in a Deluxe Room at the Hyatt Regency Saipan and a dinner for two at Kili Café and Terrace.

Hyatt Regency Saipan executive chef Gabriele Colombo, right, receives a Budweiser golf bag from Club Elan manager Robin Eugenio after firing the straightest drive in hole No. 9.

Team Mobil's George Moses and Newman Techur got a 60-minute Swedish massage at l'Sugua Spa and lunch buffet for two at Miyako certificate after settling for third place.

Hyatt Regency Saipan general manager Nick Nishikawa, right, gives credit to the success of the event through the years by honoring pioneers Chris Nelson of KSPN, who started it 13 years ago when he was the manager of Club Elan, and the hotel's assistant manager Matt Araki.

Dandan Driving Range instructor Seung Woo Kang smile as he poses for the camera with tournament coordinator Yulia Camacho.

Youth golfer Charlie Jo, left, wins a cellular phone from SaipanCell Communications after shooting the longest iron drive in hole No. 5.

Tudela is BASA women's batting leader
Team Sakudi's Pauline Tudela is currently leading the batting category in the ongoing 2008 Belau Amateur Softball Association women's league.
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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Santana leads Mets in win over Cubs, stay ahead in wildcard race
New York pitcher Johan Santana got an unusual broken-bat infield single and struck out 10 batters to lead the Mets to a critical 6-2 win over the Chicago Cubs in the National League on Tuesday. 24

NMIFA donates equipment to PSS

By ROSELYN B MONROYO
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REPORTER

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Teachers/coaches from various public schools in the CNMI pose with NMIFA officials and the donation package from the association during yesterday's presentation at the NMIFA office in the TSL Building in Garapan.

Parents concerned about their children's safety while playing soccer need not to worry anymore, as the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association donated equipment to various public schools in the CNMI in preparation for the upcoming Public School System Interscholastic Football League.

NMIFA, with the help of on- and off-island companies, individuals, and foundations, handed out an equipment donation package to 10 elementary schools on Saipan yesterday at the NMIFA office in the TSL Building in Garapan.

The package includes two Size 4 balls, one pair of football gloves, one hand football pump/needles, one ball bag, 14 pairs of shin guards, and eight pieces of flat disc.

"Now parents can let their kids play without worrying they might get injured because of lack of protective equipment," said Peter Loken, who coaches the girls team of Garapan Elementary School.

RELATED NEWS
Women's futsal boot camp Saturday.
PAGE 26

"Our students are free to move around the field, too and feel more confident knowing they would not get hurt when they kick the ball," Loken added.

Francis Mendiola of Koblerville Elementary School believes the donation eases the schools' financial burden.

"Last year, teachers even bought equipment to allow kids to play. The school even had to give $200 to cover the expenses of the one-day tournament," said Mendiola, whose school improvised a wooden goal for a tournament before NMIFA donated goals last school year.

Besides the equipment package, Mendiola said NMIFA will shoulder the expenses for the upcoming league.

"It's really a big help for schools and their students who want to join the league, but don't have enought funds," Mendiola said

Melissa Dickenson of William S. Reyes Elementay School said with NMIFA's donation, they don't need to use cones when playing, and more students will be encouraged to try the sport knowing the equipment is there and ready for anyone to use.

NMIFA president Jerry Tan said the equipment donation is part of NMIFA's commitment to assist PSS in holding the interscholastic league.

"We understand that PSS is operating under a tight budget and it could not afford to allot funds for the league. With this in mind, NMIFA through the help of concerned individuals and companies decided to make donations to PSS," Tan said.

"We hope this donation will go a long way as far as the promotion of football in the interscholastic level is concerned. PSS, teachers, principals, and students, let's make it happen. Help bring interscholastic

See NMIFA on Page 26

Three share early lead in beach v-ball

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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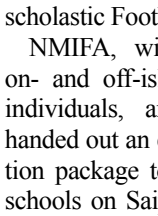
REPORTER



Three teams got their seasons off to flying starts in the 2008 Fall Miller Lite Four-Person Beach Volleyball League Tuesday night at the Pacific Islands Club sand courts.

Enyophace, Acme Roofing, and MHS Oakies prevailed over their respective rivals to share the early lead with identical 3-0 win-loss records.

It was an easy win for Enyophace, which is anchored by Jessica Uematsu, Kegn Hall, Keoni Ichihara, Jeff Cloud, Clark Boswell, Marley Buchun, Nicole French, and Louise Oakley, as they finished off Kimoichi, 21-17, 21-10, 21-7, in the fourth and final match-up of the evening.

Enyophace now paces the league after winning 63 points and allowing only 34 points for Kimoichi.

The win also boosted Enyophace's morale going in their next game against fellow opening day winner Acme Roofing, which scored 63 points but stayed in

See THREE on Page 26

Tiew Wilson of Team No. 2 hits the ball during their game against Acme Roofing in Tuesday night's four-person beach volleyball league on the PIC sand court in San Antonio.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Sonics near sweep of regular season

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Southern Sonics moved a win away from sweeping the regular season of the 2008 Saipan Rotary Club Youth Basketball League after crushing the Kontenders, 77-58, Tuesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The Sonics now have a 7-0 record and a victory over the San Antonio Sixers on Oct. 2 will give them a sweep of the regular season and the pennant championship. San Antonio is the only other unbeaten team that could foil the Sonics' pennant bid. The

See SONICS on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The Southern Sonics' Augustine Hocog goes a for a shot during their game against the Rollers I. The Sonics defeated the Rollers I and are on a seven-game winning run after beating the Kontenders Tuesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Dan Ganacias wins September Ace

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Dan Ganacias claimed the Fil-Taga Golfers Association September Ace of the Month title, beating 12 other players last Sunday on the west course of the Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

Ganacias shot a net 67 for a one-shot win over Greg Gamboa. The 18-handicapper drilled a gross 85 on the Kagman golf facility.

Actually, two players fired a net 67 with Rey Ferraz tying Ganacias. But Ferraz had already won the June plum, disqualifying him from taking home another monthly title. The 21-handicapper Ferraz scored a gross 88.

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